

'Syria does not know hostage whereabouts'

TOKYO (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa said Wednesday Syria's forces deployed in Beirut's war-ravaged southern suburbs did not know the whereabouts of foreign hostages held in Lebanon. Persistent reports have said many of up to 18 Westerners missing and believed kidnapped by pro-Iranian militants were believed held in west Beirut's lawless suburbs. "We don't know where the hostages are. Had we known where the hostages are, we would have done all we could to release all of them," Al Sharaa told news conference in Tokyo. Syrian troops moved into the suburbs last week to put an end to three weeks of street fighting between rival Shi'ite militias in which 500 people were killed. Sharaa arrived Monday for a four-day visit and held talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno Tuesday. A Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said they exchanged views on the Middle East and discussed Uno's scheduled visit to Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel next month.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية. الراي.

Syria slams Shultz's Mideast tour

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria Wednesday slammed a scheduled Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, calling it an American manoeuvre to help Israel curb the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. "Why these visits by the American minister Shultz to the area when Israel still rejects international decisions for a just and lasting peace and says there is no hope of any progress from Shultz's mission?" asked Al Baath newspaper, organ of the ruling Arab Baath party. It said any peace initiative that did not take into account the rights of the Palestinians to set up their own state was fruitless. "The American moves through the visits of Shultz are only attempts at deception and manoeuvres by the American administration every time its ally Israel finds itself unable to curb the popular uprising," it added. Shultz plans to visit Israel, Jordan, Syria and Egypt from June 3.

Volume 13 Number 3795

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY JUNE 2-3, 1988. SHAHWAL 18-19, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

King sends good wishes to Cossiga

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday cabled congratulations to Italian President Francesco Cossiga on Italy's National Day. The King wished him good health and wished the Italian people further progress and prosperity.

Tougher GCC stand seen towards Iran

RIYADH (R) — Gulf Arab states might seek a joint tougher stand towards Iran when they meet in Jeddah this week, a senior Gulf official was quoted as saying Wednesday. Seif Al Maskary, assistant secretary-general of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), told the Asharq Al Awsat daily the group might be asked to stand up to Iran when GCC foreign ministers meet Saturday. "Dialogue and contacts between some GCC members and Iran... is an attempt to convince the Iranian side that there are no benefits in continuing the (Gulf) war," Maskary added.

Gandhi due in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi will visit Syria Saturday for three days, his first to the Arab state, the Syrian Arab News Agency reported Wednesday. Gandhi will be accompanied by his wife and the minister of state for foreign affairs, the official agency said. Diplomatic sources said that Gandhi would meet Syrian leaders to discuss bilateral relations, Middle East issues and a conference of foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement scheduled to be open in Cyprus Sept. 5.

UAE probes blast that hit boat

DUBAI (R) — Security officials Wednesday questioned survivors of a fishing boat destroyed by an explosion in the Gulf of Oman to check whether the vessel hit a mine. A hospital spokesman in the coastal town of Dibba said one of the seven Indian crewman was killed and four wounded in the blast and that security men questioned the crew about the cause. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) official news agency WAM said the boat struck a mine Tuesday off Dibba, which lies outside the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf, but shipping sources said the cause of the blast was still unclear.

Israeli workers break into ministry

TEL AVIV (AP) — Hundreds of enraged Israeli workers broke into the finance ministry Wednesday, smashing windows and clashing with police who fired tear-gas to disperse the crowd, police said. A police spokesman said five policemen were lightly injured and four demonstrators were detained. The violence started when 400 workers from Beit Shemesh Engines held a licensed demonstration near the ministry to protest the breakdown of talks on compensation for 260 workers laid off from their jobs.

Arafat in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Wednesday to discuss preparations for the Arab League summit opening in Algiers June 7. Palestinian sources said he would have talks with President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan about the conference agenda.

Yeltsin denies Ligachev remark

WASHINGTON (R) — Ousted Moscow Communist Party chief Boris Yeltsin denied Wednesday he had called for the resignation of the Kremlin ideology chief for slowing social reforms. "There was absolutely no talk of resignation whatsoever," Yeltsin said in a U.S. television interview from Moscow. Yeltsin said in a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) interview Monday the reforms could be developed more actively if someone other than Yegor Ligachev was the Communist Party's second-ranking leader.

Gorbachev, Reagan usher in 'era of nuclear disarmament'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan ushered in an "era of nuclear disarmament" by effecting an historic arms treaty but the Kremlin chief said they had missed many opportunities at their Moscow summit.

In a symbolic centrepiece to their five-day meeting, the two leaders exchanged documents ratifying the intermediate nuclear forces (INF) accord eliminating an entire class of weapons which they signed in Washington last December.

"The era of nuclear disarmament has begun," declared a beaming Gorbachev as he and the U.S. president exchanged red leather folders containing the texts of the treaty, ratified only last weekend by their two legislatures.

Reagan, who earlier renounced the view he had expressed at the

start of his administration that the Soviet Union was "an evil empire," told Gorbachev: "Mr. General Secretary, these are historic moments."

And in a joint statement issued at the end of the business negotiations at their fourth summit, they said they had made considerable progress towards achieving a START treaty to cut by half their huge arsenals of strategic nuclear missiles.

"During the course of this meeting in Moscow, the exchanges on START resulted in

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Superpowers draw closer on Mideast

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said Wednesday the superpowers were moving closer in their approaches to a Middle East settlement but differences remained over an international conference and the Palestinian problem.

Speaking after his final round of talks with President Reagan at the Moscow summit, Gorbachev said a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict must guarantee Israel's security and the right of Palestinians to self-determination.

"There can be no security for one at the expense of the other," Gorbachev told a news conference, the first he was given in the Soviet Union.

Referring to U.S. and Soviet views on the Middle East, Gorbachev said: "There are elements which make it possible to say that there has been a drawing closer of our positions."

He said these included the American acceptance that an international conference with Soviet participation should form part of the peace process.

Stating that the Soviet Union had let the United States attempt to solve the Middle East problem on its own for several years,

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Israeli authorities suspend public services for Palestinians

Tear-gas killed 11, dozens of unborns in occupied territories, U.N. official says

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A U.N. spokesman said Wednesday that tear-gas fired by Israeli soldiers has killed 11 Palestinians including a seven-day-old infant and has caused dozens of miscarriages since the Palestinian uprising began six months ago.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Phyllis Oakley called the report "a matter of concern to us," and said it had been raised recently with Israel.

"We have repeatedly urged the government of Israel to use non-lethal means to control violent demonstrations," she said.

Bill Lee, spokesman for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), said most casualties were a result of the gas being fired into closed rooms such as shelters, clinics and homes, by troops dispersing demonstrators.

He said 1,285 other Palestinians from refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were treated in hospitals for breathing

problems caused by the tear-gas. "The gas is not normally lethal when used according to prescribed directions, but it can be when fired into enclosed spaces," Lee told the AP in a telephone interview.

Meanwhile hundreds of children staged protest marches in the occupied West Bank Wednesday and the Israeli occupation authorities said they were running out of money and suspending public services to Palestinians.

Palestinian sources reported widespread demonstrations by children in Ramallah, Kafr Malek, Jelaoun and Al Amari refugee camps in response to a call by underground leaders of the uprising to mark International Children's Day.

They said troops used tear-gas and rubber bullets to break up some of the marches.

A senior Israeli "administrator" in the West Bank told reporters that a serious shortage in income tax and local muni-

cipal taxes was causing a breakdown in public services. Palestinian organisers of the uprising have called for a tax boycott.

"The administrator," who declined to be identified, said some of the civil administration's 17,000 Palestinian employees would be laid off.

"We are in a bad way, but you must understand that the general situation of the West Bank economy is bad," he said.

Other officials said the "civil administration's" budget had been cut by about 30 per cent. The Israeli parliament Wednesday defeated motions by small right and left-wing opposi-

tion parties assailing the government's handling of the uprising.

Dedi Zucker of the Citizens' Rights Movement told the House: "The highest price that the government of Israel will pay in its struggle against the intifada is the change that has taken place for the past six months in the character of the regime in Israel."

"The extent of punishment without trial, the frequency of such punishment and the number of victims turned the regime in Israel into something resembling our worst nightmares," he said.

Twenty-two Palestinian employees of the West Bank Vehicle

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Iran said building new Silkorm launch site

ABOARD USS CORONADO IN THE GULF (Agencies) — The top U.S. military commander for the Middle East said Wednesday that Iran was "not out of the game" despite recent military setbacks, and in fact is nearing completion of a major new Silkorm missile site threatening the entire Strait of Hormuz.

General George B. Crist also said the recent U.S. deployment of a super-sophisticated Aegis missile cruiser with long-range air surveillance and weapons systems was partly due to the new Silkorm activity, and represents "a quantum leap forward in our ability to handle that threat."

Iran, despite losing six naval craft in an April 18 clash with the U.S. navy, remains a formidable naval presence in the Gulf, said Crist, chief of the Tampa, Florida-based U.S. central command.

He said Tehran has been "very circumspect and careful" since the debacle, "but I don't get any feeling that the Iranians have run up a white flag or that sort of thing... I would not say they have given up their thoughts about trying to get to us."

The four-star marine general, whose command covers U.S. forces in the Gulf, told a Pentagon media pool aboard this command ship in the Gulf that the new Silkorm launch site should be completed sometime late this summer but could be used anytime.

Crist also disclosed that no further progress had been observed recently on another apparent Silkorm installation on Iran's Abu Musa island in the southern Gulf.

"We've seen a scraping in the earth that looked like a T-shaped launch site (on Abu Musa)," he said. "But we've seen nothing else to indicate that there's anything at all."

"When we first saw what appeared to be launch sites on Abu Musa, clearly we were concerned," he said. "We watched it like a hawk and nothing happened."

He went on: "Is it not ironic that those Western states which proclaim their commitment to non-proliferation (of nuclear weapons) with such vigour, turn out to be the ones to have given a nuclear capability to South Africa, a state that has refused to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty or to place all its nuclear facilities under international atomic energy agency standards?"

He said the situation created by what he called the nuclearisation of South Africa was extremely

serious and the disarmament commission should quickly submit recommendations to the U.N. General Assembly on combating this capability.

Prime Minister Nohoru Takeshita of Japan, the only nation to have suffered atomic attack, told the session the superpowers should use their improved relations to promote a ban on nuclear weapons tests.

He said Japan, a member of the U.N. Security Council, had been working strenuously for such a prohibition, "in keeping with the profound desire of its people."

Turning to non-nuclear armaments, Takeshita said it was profoundly regrettable that chemical arms, these beinous weapons, were employed in the Iran-Iraq war.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday inaugurated the new headquarters of the Al Duffatein Sports Club at Al Wihdat. The club's president delivers a speech welcoming the King during the opening ceremony (Petra photo)

King opens new sports complex, renews support for youth activities

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday inaugurated the new headquarters of the Al Duffatein Sports Club at Al Wihdat and voiced his support for youth and sports activities in the country.

The King, after touring the premises accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and other officials, said in a statement to the press that Jordan attaches great hopes to the youth, who "are a source of pride for all Jordanian people and the Arab World."

"We admire the youth's achievements and their high spirits which we hope will serve as a good example for the coming young generations," the King said.

The King described the new sports complex as a great sports edifice reflecting the efforts and the awareness of the Jordanian youth and those who contributed to its construction.

King Hussein stressed the need for maintaining unity among the Jordanian family striving to serve national causes and future generations.

At the outset of the ceremony the club's president, Akel Al Fayed, delivered a speech welcoming the King and paying tribute to His Majesty's continued

service for the Jordanian people in general and the youth sector in particular.

Fayed referred to the King's efforts at the national, pan-Arab, and Islamic levels to support the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories and praised the Hashemite family's sacrifices for Arab causes and renewed the Jordanian family's

total allegiance to the Hashemite throne. King Hussein was accorded an enthusiastic welcome by officials and members of the public.

The new headquarters comprises a multi-purpose sports hall, offices, lounges, courts for volleyball, basketball, handball, table tennis and boxing and other sports activities.

Al Hussein visits JEPSCO

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday paid a visit to the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPSCO) on the occasion of the company's 50th anniversary.

The King, who was accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and Cabinet members, beard a brief-

ing on the company's operations and achievements.

The briefing was presented by the company's board chairman, Mohammad Ali Budeir who expressed the board's appreciation to the King for the visit and said the company staff and employees take pride in the company's achievements carried out under the King's leadership.

Sharif Zaid pays tribute to Great Arab Revolt leaders

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Wednesday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein on the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day anniversary.

Sharif Zaid, paid tribute to the leaders of the Great Arab Revolt and referred to the late King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, founder of the Kingdom "who devoted his life and efforts to achieve the national objectives of the Great Arab Revolt."

Sharif Zaid launched King Hussein's relentless efforts in providing up-to-date weapons to the Armed Forces to defend the nation and shield it against external dangers and aggression.

Sharif Zaid pledged the Armed Forces' total allegiance to and support for the King's leadership and their true commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt.

On the occasion of the Great Arab Revolt and Army Day anniversary, Field Marshal Sharif Zaid hosted a reception. It was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Parliament speakers, senior Royal Court officials and other officials.

Karachi businessmen extend initial welcome to Zia move

KARACHI (R) — Businessmen and the stockmarket in Pakistan's main industrial centre welcomed President Zia Ul Haq's pledge to cut out corruption and turn the nation back towards greater solvency.

"Pakistan has been saved from bankruptcy," said Tariq Saeed, president of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

On Wednesday, other industrialists in the port of Karachi, the hub of the nation's industry and commerce, welcomed Zia's unexpected dismissal of his government Sunday and his promise of elections within 90 days.

The Karachi stockmarket, once

it had digested the news, also gave a cautious thumbs up after investors decided that tough political measures may bring greater economic stability.

The Karachi stock index rose three points to close at 1,546 Tuesday, reversing a recent spate of declines.

Yusuf Zia, a former federation president, said Zia's measures should help promote private investment.

Akharali Hashwani, president of the Karachi Cotton Association, the biggest commodity market in Pakistan, said Zia's action would restore security and encourage more private investment.

Habre sees Libyan offer as interference in Chad

ABIDJAN (R) — Chad President Hissene Habre was quoted as saying Wednesday that an offer by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to host a reconciliation meeting with his opponents was interference in his country's affairs.

"Qadhafi is inviting me to Tripoli to enter negotiations with some Chadians living abroad. We think this amounts to a very serious interference in Chad's internal affairs," Habre said in an interview with the Ivorian daily Fraternite Matin.

Last week Qadhafi recognised Habre's government and invited him to Tripoli for a national reconciliation meeting with his long-standing opponent Goukoni

Oueddei.

Chad and Libya are locked in a protracted territorial dispute over the Aouzou border strip and Qadhafi also announced as part of his conciliatory gesture the release of Chadian prisoners captured in fighting last year.

Chad has been in a state of civil war for most of the last 20 years with government forces fighting for control of the mountainous north, including the Aouzou Strip.

Since Habre reconquered the capital N'djamena in 1982 he has gradually strengthened his grip on the south and gained international recognition.

But for some time he has faced opposition from Libya.

This is the fifth part of a six part series in which the exercise of academic freedoms in Palestinian universities of the occupied Arab territories is discussed. This study was presented to UNESCO at its 127th session by Father Edouard Bane.

The accusation

The Rapporteur is acquainted from written and oral sources with the criticism sometimes levelled against the Palestinian universities of being not so much genuine academic institutions as a cover for subversive activities and a breeding-ground for terrorist agitation against Israel in the occupied territories or elsewhere. According to statements published on several occasions in the Jerusalem Post, the students are regularly engaged in political activities, sometimes of an illegal nature.

During his stay in Israel and the occupied territories, the Rapporteur heard this criticism expressed frequently by the military and civilian authorities. With various degrees of nuance and emphasis, the universities are often accused of providing facilities for subversive activities and of constituting the "spearhead" of the PLO, for which they represent a "reserve force." It is no doubt conceded that there are perhaps only some 10 to 20 per cent of student "activists," but they represent the active minority, bringing pressure to bear on the remaining 80 per cent of students who are less committed to the active struggle, and on the university administration itself, all too often passive and overwhelmed, if not clandestinely given to collaboration.

Some "witnesses" have even gone so far as to claim that the university is politicized to its very foundations, with less than 10 per cent of its activities entitled to be called academic. It was even told that it could not be otherwise: "the university had sold itself" to terrorist groups by becoming too dependent on their financial support.

I had in fact an opportunity to visit an "exhibition" of propaganda material that had been "seized in the universities." While many of the documents (which would have required lengthy examination, in a language of which I had no knowledge) appeared to me to be merely patriotic or nationalistic, advocating passive resistance to the occupying power.

The criticism of subversion, and its alleged forms, nevertheless deserve careful examination. As already noted, the Palestinian universities impressed us to a great extent and on several counts as being academically

reputable institutions, carrying out their teaching duties and some research in spite of the enormous difficulties of all kinds with which they are faced day after day.

The Rapporteur draws attention at least to the critical analysis made in this connection by a group of teachers at the Hebrew University who studied the matter, and to their basically favourable reaction. In their opinion the universities' academic activity proceeded according to conventional standards, and the university administrations showed themselves desirous of promoting and maintaining it. They spared no effort to ensure that programmes were properly carried out. I am not convinced that a few "bellicose" posters discovered during a search of premises are enough to stigmatise the climate of the university as an institution. I had the opportunity of visiting an exhibition of books, folklore and culture at Nahalut on the occasion of a reception organised at the National University of Al Najah, and there was no evidence of any document exhorting people to violence.

The politicisation of students

It seems true that all the students are to varying degrees politically involved. The range of their allegiance is very wide, extending from those who reject any form of dialogue with the occupying power and are ready to use violence to those who, while rejecting the occupation of their country, do not know which solution they wish to see adopted in order to recover their identity. The fact that they entertain political aspirations and are even influenced from outside is very clear. Evidence of this dual situation is to be found in the various groups which frequently confront each other on the campuses, the various strains of nationalism, the Muslim Brotherhood and the Islamic fundamentalists, various factions of the PLO, Marxists, etc. The expression of these various tendencies extends to the membership of student councils or unions. They are sometimes firmly opposed to each other, yet are brought together by the same obscure hope and by the same Palestinian flag. How could one be surprised at that?

Having questioned the available academic authorities on this

Israel seeks to destroy Palestinian identity; Arab universities hold fortress

matter, the Rapporteur suggests that at this juncture the following two considerations may be set out:

(a) It should be admitted a priori that a student community of young intellectuals, in any university throughout the world, will engage in political reflection. It can also be admitted in advance that any such community living under occupation will develop its political thinking along less exclusively theoretical lines, and that it will have numerous opportunities (the celebration of anniversaries, incidents of all kinds varying from road-blocks to identity checks and the arrest of fellow-students) to give expression to its convictions and aspirations, to state its political demands or assert its commitment to national and cultural identity. The Palestinian student must sometimes feel "stateless" in so far as he cannot entertain any constructive hope for the restoration of his national independence. He will therefore take occasion spontaneously to manifest his suffering or his faith. To reject such manifestations, or to be shocked by them, is to be out of touch with reality; any attempt to prohibit them will merely bring about their escalation.

(b) The university is not merely a technical or vocational institution. It cannot renounce its overall educational mission, without betraying its fundamental purpose. The training of an intellectual elite is also the training of educated leaders who will be able to guide the community: this is a fundamental aim of universities, which have always been and ought to remain instrumental in criticising the society which they wish to serve. Development of a sense of cultural identity and national responsibility is central to the purpose of education, which is an integral part of nation-building.

In the light of the honest and substantive conversations he had with many senior officials of the Palestinian universities, and despite the tedious details, always difficult to assess objectively, of the multitude of events in the daily life of these establishments, the Rapporteur shares the conviction of other observers (22) that

the universities intend to act as a catalyst in the conservation of the Palestinian cultural identity and the preservation of the national heritage. It is also the intention of each of them to constitute a meeting-place and a forum for discussion and for national awareness. Accordingly, they cannot avoid being seen as non-violent forces of resistance to occupation.

As leading Israeli personalities confined to me, quite apart from any suspicion of diminished fidelity, to their own fatherland the deep-rooted cause of student unrest is the Israeli occupation itself, the permanent humiliation it constitutes, the profound frustration it develops within the Palestinian soul, the fundamental and constant "aggression" it represents and the "ever-spreading annexation" it encourages.

It must even be considered that through force of circumstances the universities have become the only possible forum, and also an essential one, for the political consciousness of the Palestinian people.

At a time when there is no longer a specific flag to venerate or leadership to acknowledge in the running of the state, it is inevitable that the Palestinian world should make use of the university as a forum for dialogue.

A number of university rectors told us in this connection how sensible it was to authorise and encourage the constitution of student councils and to set aside certain periods in the timetable for their cultural, folk, social, sports and even political activities.

In this way, it is possible to define the political "forum," to make students responsible and to conduct a dialogue with them. Student councils, constituted through free elections, will no doubt reflect the whole political spectrum of the student environment and the complexity of the Palestinian identity. Instead, however, of ignoring radicalism with its inevitable excesses, an attempt might be made to contain it or even to water it down. (Those university establishments which have hitherto refused to authorise such councils now seem

prepared to review their position.)

The Rapporteur cannot help having the impression that it might be wrong to consider manifestations of cultural identity in the Palestinian universities as being necessarily political threats or explicitly aggressive gestures. An interpretation of that kind, mistakenly identifying educational autonomy with subversion, inevitably entails repression on one side and frustration and anger on the other. This profound misconception, the cause of incidents of dramatic escalation, may be the explanation why the difficulties arising from occupation are most frequently focussed on the universities, and can so often lead to violent confrontations and even bloodshed.

Individual accusations of subversion

A. Professor Mohammad Shadid (Al Najah) recently conducted a survey under the auspices of the Al Fajr newspaper and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. I am told that it constitutes a study of rigorously scientific value, aimed at providing an accurate description of the socio-political leadership of the population on the West Bank.

The results of the survey met with the disapproval of the occupation authorities, and Dr. Shadid has now been banned from working in the territories.

B. Dr. Abed Al Sattar Qasem (Al Najah) has been sentenced to six months' town arrest for having published a book entitled The Prison Experience, which also aims at providing scientific evidence of a sociological nature.

C. Professor Sa'eh Erakat was recently sentenced by the Nahal Military Tribunal (a fine of U.S. \$6,000 and an eight-month suspended sentence) for an editorial published in June 1956 in the Al Najah Newsletter (23). The text at issue reads as follows: "Unchanged, after 19 years of occupation, is our determination to endure, to resist, to reject and thus to obtain our freedom." (Professor Erakat's lawyer, Jawad Boulos, was also fined U.S. \$500 for contempt of court for having dared asked the

grounds for the verdict passed on his client.)

It is clear that the three incidents are related to a subject which is not entirely neutral. The first two documents undoubtedly claim to be rigorously scientific works. It is their objectivity and the status of their authors, who have never been politically involved themselves, which possibly give these publications a more striking impact on Palestinian youth and make them "more threatening."

Professor Erakat's "profession of faith" is more committed; it is nevertheless rigorously non-violent. These three recent incidents are undoubtedly typical of the practical difficulties faced by the Palestinian universities under occupation.

Senior university officials

Mention is made above of the criticism sometimes levelled by the Israeli authorities at the university officials, whom they accuse of weakness towards attempts at subversion if not actually surrendering to them or even actively collaborating in violence. Criticism relates to entrance requirements, the opening of political bureaux, financial dependence on benefactors alleged to place university heads in the delicate position of being under an obligation, favouritism towards students who have been convicted, and so on. It was not possible for the Rapporteur to institute an investigation into each allegation or the circumstances in which it was said to have been corroborated.

University heads are not police officers. It is possible that among their students there may be agitators or prospective saboteurs. They are not responsible for constituting files other than academic records, nor can they mete out punishment for actions committed outside the university.

The sanctions available to heads of academic institutions are of two kinds: (a) firstly academic, that is to say, admission and graduation criteria, mainly as the marks obtained in the Tawjihi and annual examinations; and second (b) disciplinary, for misconduct, insubordination, anti-university activity, etc. To criticise

university heads for deeds committed by their students outside the confines of the campus, or even for action pursued on the campus itself, within the framework of the university's specific mission of education and political consciousness-raising, seems unrealistic, not to say totally unjust. As one rector put it, "The university is quiet when it is right."

The overall impression gained by the Rapporteur during his mission in the occupied territories is reassuring in this respect. Rectors are faced every day with an infinitely delicate task which they carry out tactfully and responsibly. They have difficulties in keeping their universities afloat, in developing them despite the absence of any structure of state; difficulties with the military and civilian authorities; difficulties with the groups and factions within the student body, and with their salary claims. Above all, there are the difficulties due to prolonged occupation, with its multiple consequences, physical, moral and psychological.

The men I met were energetic, calm thoughtful and persevering, mindful, first and foremost, of the academic priorities of their establishments; ready to devote considerable time to the student councils in order to help them to behave responsibly; ready to meet the military authorities in connection with all too frequent clashes and states of tension, and to act as mediators. Never did I have an impression of dealing with men who are weak or unable to keep pace with events.

Academic freedom and the destruction of cultural or national identity

The Rapporteur gathered a substantial body of evidence, both written and oral, regarding the non-functioning of academic freedom in the Palestinian universities, the multiple difficulties experienced in the daily life of those establishments and the considerable harm caused to the cultural identity and advancement of the populations which they serve.

There are objective facts, and there are accusations based on

assumptions of intent, the Rapporteur took note of the former, on occasion he heard the latter, and must refuse to pass judgment on them.

The objective facts are however preoccupied. They have been noted above; frequent disruption of academic activities through the official or virtual closure of universities; censorship, administrative difficulties, shortage of equipment, building delays or restrictions and the limitation of training facilities; also recurrent agitation, leading to arrests, detention, imprisonment, house arrest and deportation, and even violent clashes, resulting occasionally in injury or death. These combined difficulties strike hard at the universities, their research potential and even the academic standard of their teaching (at least beyond the level of the undergraduate college), and inevitably lead to a loss of students by emigration, however difficult this is to quantify.

This "brain drain" has also been encouraged by the very high rate of graduate unemployment, the very limited industrial facilities in the area and, consequently, the small number of jobs available to the approximately 2000 Palestinian graduates who leave the universities each year and for whom there is virtually no opening on the Israeli market.

In addition to objective facts, details of which may be contested but not the overall pattern, some parties feel justified in making accusations based on assumptions. This is a very risky undertaking, invariably based on a degree of "interpretation" and inevitably containing an element of passion.

On the one hand — and the Rapporteur heard this frequently — Israel is accused of seeking systematically to destroy the Palestinian consciousness, to empty the country of its elites and, in order to do this, of creating so much hardship or administrative complication as to make all those who can, think of emigration.

It is also said that since the national life of Palestine and its legitimate political preoccupation

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15:30 Koran
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20:30 Arabic series
21:35 Local Arabic Drama
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Drama continued

PROGRAMME TWO

18:30 Rue Carnot
18:30 Le Monde magique de chantal Goya
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
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21:10 Anna of the Five Towns
21:30 News in English
22:30 Feature film "Seduced"

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09:00 Morning Show Cont.
10:00 Country Music
11:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Now Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
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15:00 News Summary
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17:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown
17:30 Good Vibrations
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Our Mutual Friend
18:30 Music
19:00 Date with a Star
19:30 News Bulletin
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont.
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Cont.
23:00 News Summary

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

10:00 Koran
10:30 Children programme
11:05 Religious programme
12:30 Friday's prayer
13:30 Religious seminar
14:25 Religious seminar
15:15 Film
18:15 Viewers' choice (Arabic)
19:40 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 A programme on the occupied Arab territories
21:00 Arabic series
22:00 Varieties
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Film: Mamu
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:10 Magnum
22:00 News in English
22:20 Falcon Crest
23:10 Richardson, Poorman

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 950 KHz. SW. Tel. 77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Morning Show Cont.
10:00 Country Music
11:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Now Music
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
14:30 Hall of Fame
15:00 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Hitsville: The story of Motown
17:30 Good Vibrations
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Our Mutual Friend
18:30 Music
19:00 Date with a Star
19:30 News Bulletin
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont.
21:55 News Summary
22:00 Evening Show Cont.
23:00 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle.

* An exhibition about flower arrangement by Na'ela Adnan Massana at the French Cultural Centre.

* A permanent exhibition of plastic art by 27 Arab artists at the Plaza Hotel.

* Two exhibitions at the Goethe institute, one is about the development of typesetting and mass printing and the other is about German Woodcuts.

* A painting exhibition by Suha Shoman at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* An art exhibition by Her Royal Highness Fakhrelnissa Zaid at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* An exhibition of painting by Mahmoud Safa at Alia Art Gallery.

* An exhibition of electronic equipment, digital and anal, at Housing Bank Complex, Amman.

* An art exhibition by Emmanuel Paul Guiragossian at the Amra Hotel.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267

American Centre 644371

Spanish Cultural Centre 641320

British Council 6361478

French Cultural Centre 637009

Goethe Institute 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre 639777

Haya Arts Centre 665195

Husseini Youth City 6671816

Y.W.C.A. 664251

Amman Municipal Library 636111

Univ. of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00

a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Closed on Friday

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Leons Philadelphie Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphie Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic): Jabal Lawteideh, Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.

Terranova Church (Roman Catholic): Jabal Lawteideh, Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer): Jabal Amman, Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence tel. 601339.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox): Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 677334.

Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd): Amman, Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir, tel. 811295.

Rainbow Congregation (meets at the Good Shepherd Church): Inter-denominational-ecumenical English Service: Sunday 8:30 p.m. tel. 822605, Rev. Veli.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon): Tel. 815817, 821264.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

10:00 Agaba (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:25 Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:35 Dhahran (RJ)
10:40 Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:50 London (RJ)
10:55 Athens (RJ)
11:00 New York, Vienna (RJ)
11:05 Zurich, Lausanne (RJ)
11:10 Los Angeles, Miami, Vienna (RJ)
20:45 Rome (RJ)
20:45 Tripoli (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

11:25 Kuwait (KU)
12:30 Baghdad (IA)
12:30 Cairo (MS)
12:30 Rome (RI)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
12:30 Riyadh (SV)
12:30 Doha (EK)
12:30 Sana'a (LH)
12:30 Baghdad (AF)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell/buy rates in Jds

Belgian franc (for 100) 94.6/ 98.6

Dutch guilder 176.2/ 183.7

French franc (for 100) 58.6/ 61.6

Italian lira (for 100) 26.7/ 27.7

Japanese yen (for 100) 272.7/ 283.7

Swedish crown 57.1/ 59.3

Swiss franc 236.4/ 247.2

U.S. sterling pound 625.7/ 650.8

U.S. dollar 342/ 354.3

W. German mark 197.2/ 205.9

PRAYER TIMES

03:48 Fajr

05:23 (Sunrise) Dhuha

12:33 Dhuhr

16:16 'Asr

19:44 Maghrib

21:19 'Isha

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

The temperature is expected to gradually increase during the day with medium and high clouds appearing and north-westerly slight to moderate winds. In Agaba, the winds will be moderate and calm seas.

Amman Min./max. temp. 15/ 30

Agaba 11/ 37

Deserts 16/ 33

Jordan Valley 19/ 36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28, Agaba 34. Humidity readings: Amman 33 per cent, Agaba 24 per cent.

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

07:45 Agaba (RJ)
11:45 Tripoli (RJ)
11:45 Rome (RI)
12:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt, London (RJ)
13:15 Paris (RJ)
13:30 Laraca (RJ)
13:30 Kuwait (RJ)
13:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
13:30 Abu Dhabi (GF)
13:30 Riyadh (SV)
13:30 Zurich, Lausanne (RJ)
13:30 Los Angeles, Miami, Vienna (RJ)
13:30 London (RJ)
13:30 Athens (RJ)
13:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
13:30 Zurich, Lausanne (RJ)
13:30 Los Angeles, Miami, Vienna (RJ)
13:30 London (RJ)
13:30 Athens (RJ)
13:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
13:30 Zurich, Lausanne (RJ)
13:30 Los Angeles, Miami, Vienna (RJ)
13:30 London (RJ)
13:30 Athens (RJ)
13:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
13:30

PROMOTED: A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday promoting to the rank of general each of the following: Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleh, Public Security Department Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali and Public Intelligence Department Director General Tareq Alnadda. The promotion is effective immediately.



General Fathi Abu Taleh.

'Medical Aid for Palestinians' team arrives Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — A British medical team from the group "Medical Aid for Palestinians" is due here Thursday on a visit to Jordan, during which they will hold a press conference to explain the group's charity work and objectives.

The team arriving here had worked in Lebanon during the siege imposed on Palestinian refugee camps by the Amal militia. It is headed by Derrick Cooper who is the group's chairman and Dr. Soudai Ingh who had lived in Sabra and Shatila camps in 1982, offering medical services to the camp residents along with

nurse Susan Dayton who had lived inside the Burj Al Barajneh camp under siege last year and was forced to eat the flesh of dogs and cats to survive.

The team will address a press conference on Friday at the Marriott Hotel in Amman to expound the group's activities in Lebanon and the occupied Arab territories.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will patronise a dinner banquet which will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Amman on Saturday in honour of the visiting team.

NHF prepares for two workshops on the gifted

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) is making preparations for two workshops on educating gifted students in the Kingdom due to be held in the coming month.

An NHF statement said that Mrs. Nawal Hashisho Kamal, who has been appointed principal of the Jubilee School left for the United Kingdom on Wednesday to hold contacts with educators who will take part in the workshops scheduled for July 2-6 and

July 9-14. Hashisho will visit Moray House at Edinburgh in Scotland and educational institutions of excellence in Wales and Essex to meet the specialists who will participate in the workshops and coordinate subjects to be discussed. NHF is organising the workshops in cooperation with the British Council and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), according to the statement.

Canadian team concludes visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the National Defence College in Canada left Amman Wednesday at the end of a five-day official visit to Jordan. They met with civilian and military officials and toured a number of archaeological and military positions in the Kingdom.

One of the delegation's activities during their stay was a visit to the ministry of energy and mineral resources where they met with

officials and heads of departments. Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khateb briefed the visitors on Jordan's energy potentials and Jordanian-Canadian cooperation in energy-related fields.

The visitors who arrived here Friday on a five-day visit watched a documentary film featuring the operations of the Jordan Electricity and its projects in the Kingdom.

Drug producers meet Friday

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Arab Federation of Producers of Drugs and Medical Appliances (AFPDMA) board of directors will open a meeting in Amman on Friday to review the federation's report on the past year and endorse a future plan.

The federation's board chair-

man Abdul Mutaleb Nasser told a press conference gathering in Amman Tuesday that the board meeting will dedicate its time and efforts to help implement resolutions passed by the federation's general assembly meeting in Amman last December.

Ponies provide a ride for the handicapped

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Since it was established only two months ago, the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) has already helped many children from the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped learn to ride.

Under the guidance of the founder of the RDA, the experienced riding instructor Jill Goddard, more than 12 children every week benefit both physically and mentally from riding the little Shetland ponies donated by Hani Bisharat, at the Arabian Horse Club.

"The children love to come," Goddard told the Jordan Times, "and they cry if they can't. In a very short time they have achieved a great deal — so much so that we are planning to take the children out on a picnic ride next week. On the ponies they can get to places they never could reach in a car or a wheelchair."

The RDA however does need help if it is to continue. "For each child to be able to ride safely and with sufficient support, three helpers are needed," Goddard said. "And because of this we really need more people to help just for two hours every Saturday afternoon. Volunteers don't have to be good with horses to be able to

help, just good with children. We especially need Arabic speaking helpers."

The people already working with Goddard enjoy the time spent with the children feeling that they get as much out of the activity as the children themselves.

Several of the helpers are students who are using the experience as a community service activity for their Crown Prince Award. Anybody wishing to help should contact Goddard on 677208 or Joan Gardiner on 812616.

The children will be giving a demonstration of all they have learnt so far at a special open day

at the Arabian Horse Club, to be held this Friday, June 3rd.

Organised by members of the club, the open day promises lots of fun. Among the events organised will be mini ponyrides, tractor and trailer rides, a magic show and best of all pony rides through a mock up of the Wild West complete with gun slinging cowboys, pipe smoking Red Indians, wigwags, cactus and totem poles. There will also be lots of food stalls including a strawberry and ice-cream stand and competitions and raffles. Starting at 3 p.m. the activities will continue until 7 p.m. Entrance will be free and all proceeds will go to the RDA and the club.

Israel seeks to destroy Palestinian identity

(continued from page 2)

are concentrated in the university, it is inevitable that the Israeli authorities will seek to hound down: People speak of systematic harassment and sustained provocation...

On the other hand, the universities are constantly accused of being "nothouses" for Palestinian nationalism, and still more, of being a breeding-ground for pro-PLO violence and terrorism against Israel. Banned by the military government, subversive political activity re-emerges allegedly on the university campuses, hypocritically sheltering behind the wall of academic freedoms and the privileged status of higher education.

What conclusion should be drawn? The Israeli Minister of Defence, responsible for the occupied territories from 1967 to 1974, was of the opinion that maximum individual freedoms should be granted to the Palestinians, that is to say "in contrast to

collective, national, and therefore political freedoms": freedom of movement, work, study and expressions: "people who have a job, a trade, children at school, at high school or university, do not willingly indulge in violence. It is difficult to incite them to spread disorder or to plant bombs. Only men who have nothing to lose are truly dangerous."

This philosophy of "intelligent occupation" lay undoubtedly at the root of the real tolerance displayed by the Israeli government with regard to the initiatives taken from 1972 onwards to set up universities on the West Bank and in Gaza. It probably also accounts for the comparative patience shown towards these establishments which "could have been closed a hundred times over," as was regularly requested by certain "hawks" in the Knesset, which military governors deliberately sought to, and managed to resist.

Yet with hindsight, it must be

recognised that the prognosis proved to be wrong. Can one venture on an explanation?

1. The individual freedoms, jobs, trades, schools and universities hoped for are not available; at least, they are not geared to a standard which satisfies men and women who legitimately seek genuine self-fulfilment.

2. Was it possible to set aside collective and national liberties, the soul of a people? "Individual" freedoms — even supposing they really existed — do not meet the requirements of consciousness. A deep frustration was bound to make itself felt: a university campus is the inevitable forum for demonstration.

Young Palestinians feel that they belong irremediably to a minority, not perhaps in numerical terms (although Jewish immigration and Arab emigration have noticeably changing ratios over the last 50 years) but existentially, in a theocratic Jewish State which, for them inevitably

and inexorably constitutes an unbalanced society. In such circumstances it would be illusory to look for a deadening of national consciousness, or a climate of peace on the campuses.

There is no need to refer to any Machiavellian intent of "systematic obstruction or any hidden desire to destroy. The mere "repression" considered necessary for reasons of "security" constitutes in itself a detonator, and determines the escalation of the process. As an analyst of the situation wrote recently, with regard to the serious disturbances and tragic events of Dec. and Jan. last on the Birzeit and Al Najah campuses: "We can expect to see

an intensification of political agitation on the university campuses in the occupied territories and a corresponding aggravation of Israeli repression." The prognosis is disturbing. It is to be hoped that it is grossly unjustified.

Queen attends fund-raiser for Jerusalem's St. John Hospital

LONDON (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor was guest of honour at the "Gift of Sight" luncheon held by the Order of St. John on May 31st at the Savoy Hotel to raise funds for the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

The hospital, the first specialised in eye treatment in the Middle East, was opened on the road to Bethlehem in 1882. In 1960, it was transferred to its present self-contained compound in Jerusalem. The hospital is run by a team of eye specialists from the U.K., the U.S., Australia and Canada.

St. John Ophthalmic Hospital provides medical assistance to 50,000 outpatients, and carries out over 5,000 major surgeries a

year on citizens of Arab Jerusalem and the West Bank. Its "out reach" operation, which provides screening and eye care to villages and rural areas in the West Bank, has recently extended its medical services for children and refugee camps in Gaza and Rafah.

Patients of low income and needy people are treated completely free of charge, while a minimum charge applies to other patients.

The hospital's maintenance and running costs amount to well over £1 million per annum. Tuesday's fund raising luncheon was held to cover the deficits in the budget. The luncheon was presided by Her Royal Highness Prin-

cess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, and was attended by the chairman and members of the Ladies Guild of the St. John Ophthalmic Hospital, members of the Gift of Sight Luncheon Committee, and high ranking guests.

Research is presently being carried out on vernal conjunctivitis, congenital blindness, trachoma and cataract.

Nurses are trained on a 2-year course conforming with a syllabus designed by the Minister of Health in Jordan. Successful candidates are granted a Jordanian diploma.

Here in Jordan, the Queen is Honorary President of the Friends of St. John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem.

Seminar calls for identifying priorities in utilising water resources

By Salameh Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A regional water resources and water quality management seminar ended here Wednesday with a call on policy makers to focus more attention on the long run economic and environmental implications of water development, management and sanitation.

At the closing session held at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, the seminar called for the identification of priorities for the various uses of water resources and its preservation.

It recommended the adoption of a water pricing and collection system with an emphasis on the optimum exploitation of local and international water basins when planning and managing water projects.

Participants called on international finance centres to concentrate on financing projects for the development of water resources that have different sectoral uses.

In the field of the exploitation of ground water, the participants recommended the need to carry out a low-cost preliminary survey to determine the qualities of these waters in preparation for its development.

Dr. Bader Hazzalla, the seminar's coordinator said that six World Bank experts participated in the seminar along with four World Health Organisation (WHO) experts; two representatives from the Tennessee Valley Authority and one expert from the University of Minnesota in the United States.

Hazzalla, from the Water Authority of Jordan, told the Jordan Times that Jordan's paper was presented by the Ministry of Wa-

ter and Irrigation's Secretary General Mu'taz Bilbeisi, General Administration Institute Director General Abdullah Ulayyan and Mr. John Sproat, a Water Authority of Jordan consultant.

He said the Jordanian paper dealt with institutional arrangements for water resources administration and management in the Kingdom as well as the organisational structure of the ministry. Hazzalla said the paper dealt with measures taken for efficient water administration and ways to develop skilled manpower capabilities in the water sector in general.

He said the aim was to achieve efficient water supply distribution, water quality control and long-term water resources conservation.

In a paper he presented to the seminar, Dr. Richard Helmer, representing WHO, discussed key elements in the design of water quality monitoring networks, both at the national and global levels.

"Rationalisation of monitoring activities could be achieved through statistical analysis and through intersectoral collaboration," he told the seminar on Tuesday.

Dr. G. Higgins, an environmental engineer of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in the United States, said the water pollution problem had been effectively brought under control by legislation in the case of the Tennessee River basin.

The seminar earlier discussed public health aspects of water resources development presented by WHO experts. Dr. Nihad Akmanoglu, the coordinator of the WHO Centre for Environmental Health Activities

(CEHA) in Amman reviewed critically the public health benefits and adverse effects of water resources development projects.

He considered the provision of adequate and safe water supply and sanitation services as essential to reduce the amount of human suffering from water-borne diseases. Examples of good water resource management and health safeguards were reported from Sudan, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia. Participants concluded that the health risks can be eliminated through "proper system design and careful operation and maintenance." Strict adherence to the rules of operation and maintenance and training of personnel were considered indispensable.

A paper presented by Mr. Fritz Rodriguez from the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, discussed the "alternatives for urban water conservation and management."

Speaking during a session Sunday, Mr. William Barber, a World Bank consultant, reviewed the theme of ground water management. He made a presentation on several technical and institutional aspects of ground water utilisation, mainly with respect to exploration, resources evaluation, monitoring of ground water systems and control of ground water development.

Speaking earlier in the day, Professor K. William Easter discussed the application of economic criteria to watershed management. He introduced a specific framework for economic analysis to evaluate watershed projects defining different methods to correlate costs with the associated benefits.

Mr. Hubert Hinote, a senior economist with the Tennessee Valley Authority spoke on integrated land and water management.

Cycling festival starts today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Jordanian Kinder festival for cycle soccer and artistic cycling opens here Thursday at the Jordan Sports centre for the physically handicapped. The festival is organised by the Royal Jordanian cycling team and the Middle East Sports Academy (MESA). The proceeds of the festival will go to Jordan's sports federation for the physically handicapped. Tickets will be at a nominal rate of 250 fils a ticket.

Homesick at home

By Jamal Halaby
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Almost 60,000 Jordanians have left their home at the age of eighteen with one thought in mind: to earn a higher education degree and return to pursue relevant careers in Jordan. A normal flow of events, one might think, but for many of the returning graduates, life in Jordan is sometimes a culture shock.

After four years of college life in the United States, Samar Barghouti came home to Jordan and discovered the awful truth: There are no tacos in Amman.

"I miss Taco Bell," along with the discos, movie theatres and social freedoms that are often lacking in conservative Amman, said Barghouti, 25, one of hundreds of Jordanian students who come home from America each year.

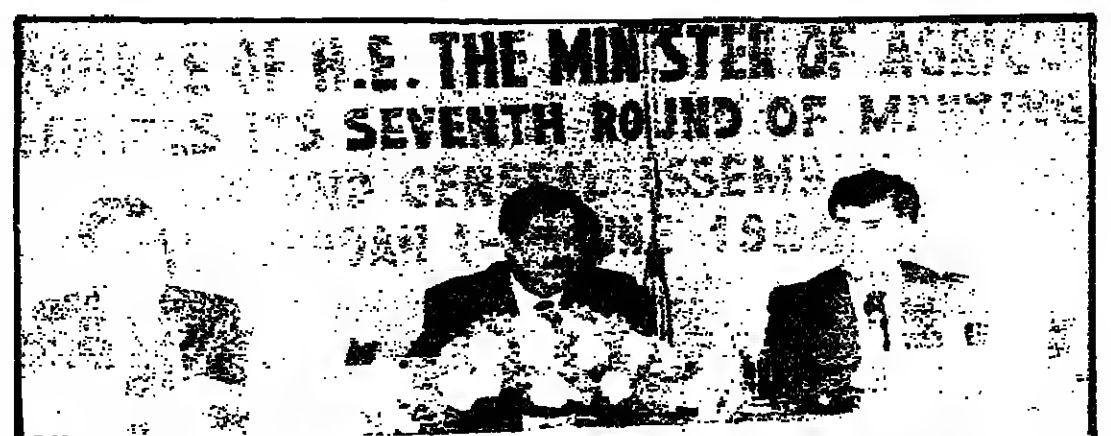
A homecoming culture shock hits many young Jordanians after years of study in the freewheeling American culture, said Jenin Al Tal, director of Amideast, a U.S. counselling service for Jordanian students.

"I miss their social life, the freedom, the independence," said Azzam Ennab, also 25, who returned home about a year ago from Oklahoma State University. Jordan has a population of about 2.7 million, with around 8,000 college students in the United States, while almost 60,000 Jordanians attend college in other countries abroad.

Upon their return from the United States and other European countries, many students gradually move into senior positions in business and government.

Tal said it takes most students "at least a year to adjust to the culture" back home. But she added that virtually all eventually make their peace with Amman.

"It took me 1½ years to get used to Amman," said Bar-



Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud (centre) Wednesday presides at the opening session of RACA meeting (Petra photo)

Agricultural sector registers 7% growth

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Jordan's agricultural sector realised an overall annual growth of seven per cent within the years of the five year national development plan (1981-1985), and it is hoped that this figure will rise to 7.8 per cent during the present 1986-1990 plan, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said here Wednesday.

The new five-year plan is expected to bring about considerable increases in the production of cereals, lean meat and dairy products which are still in short supply in the Kingdom, the minister said in an address at the opening session of the seventh meeting of the Near East, North Africa Regional Agricultural Credit Association (RACA).

Jordan, the minister said, has given due care and concern to agricultural credit organisations which the country consider as the most important instrument to provide capital for investment in agriculture. In this context, the government has introduced policies designed to support agricultural development and improve the output, the minister asserted.

In his address the minister reviewed the main tasks entrusted to various money lending organisations in Jordan and said they had played a positive and distinguished role towards promoting the agricultural sector. Through these organisations, the country has been able to transfer and absorb modern technology in agriculture and apply new methods in the country, Hmoud said.

He said that a study is underway for reassessing and promoting these methods; and plans are being made for unifying the work of credit organisations.

RACA secretary general spoke at the outset of the meeting point-

ing out that the gathering was designed to enable the participants to exchange expertise on matters of common concern, and discuss ways for improving credit operations.

He said that the delegates will make an assessment of RACA's activities and its aid programmes to member states. The director general of the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) made a speech, outlining the role of his corporation in promoting rural development. He paid tribute to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) for their programmes in promoting agricultural development.

The four-day meeting will review working papers from FAO, IFAD, the World Bank, the RACA secretary general. It will also look at Jordanian and Tunisian experiments in credit operations. Representatives of 33 member institutions are taking part in the meeting.

Islamic countries to import occupied territories produce

AMMAN (Petra) — The Karachi-based Islamic Chamber of Industry and Trade has decided to open the way for marketing agricultural and industrial products from the occupied Arab territories in Muslim nations to help bolster the Arab people's steadfastness in the face of Israeli occupation, Jordan's delegate to the chamber's executive committee meeting which was concluded in Tunis declared.

Ahmad Ghuneim who is also member of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce said that the decision was taken to prevent Israel from linking the Arab territory's economy with the Israeli economy and to thwart other Israeli measures designed to uproot the Arab population from their homeland.

Ghuneim said that the committee decided to take measures designed to strengthen industrial cooperation between Islamic countries and endorsed studies being carried out by the chamber forming a union of Islamic insurance companies, establishing an Islamic company for re-insurance and setting up a union for Islamic maritime companies.

The committee also reviewed plans for the setting up of an Islamic common market which would remove obstacles impeding the exchange of trade among Muslim countries and pave the way for greater inter-Islamic eco-

nomic and trade cooperation, Ghuneim added.

He said that the committee also discussed building a premises for the Islamic Chamber of Commerce in Karachi, Pakistan and examined steps taken to implement the project which is expected to cost \$4 million.

Thirteen out of 19 member nations attended the Tunis meeting.

According to Ghuneim, the chamber established in 1976 by Islamic foreign minister in Istanbul aims to promote the exchange of industrial agricultural and trade among Islamic nations and encourage investments in industrial and agricultural projects within the Islamic world.



The nostalgic in their college shirts — struggling to adjust (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

ghouti, a graduate of Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia, and now working in Amman as a speech therapist with disabled people.

Positive aspects

"I got used to the Middle Eastern lifestyle," Barghouti said adding that her experience in the United States made her aware of the "positive aspects of my culture."

She said she appreciates Jordan's strong family ties, which she missed when she was in the states.

"I would never bring up my children there (in America)... I like it here because there is less crime, teenage problems and drugs," Jordan's strong family culture, which stresses obedience to parents and obligations to relatives, also frustrates many who come home.

"I miss being independent and free..." said Reem Saifi, who added half-jokingly that she missed most "cruising to McDonalds and having a big mac."

"Winter got to me. I hate Jordan's wintertime," she said, referring to the scarcity of entertainment that the city offers during the winter season. But Saifi, who returned four months ago with a degree from the American University in Washington D.C., said she wouldn't go back and "start a new life away from my family."

"Jordanians in particular join their families as soon as they complete their degree," Tal said. She said some who stay are drop-outs who are "ashamed of coming back without a degree."

Jordan has four well-regarded universities of its own, but many who can afford it go to study in the United States.

"The English language is the main factor," behind the interest in education in the United States, also "because of its role as an international language," Tal said.

Discrimination against Arabs

Many who praised U.S. education said they also found pre-

judice against Arabs. "I felt some discrimination against Arabs," said Antone Atalla, 22, who attended High Point College in North Carolina. "People used to think that I was either an oil sheikh or a terrorist."

Saifi said it bothered her that some American acquaintances often referred to her as their "terrorist friend."

Some did not like me because I was a Palestinian, a Muslim, a Jordanian and an Arab," she said.

Ennab, a Dallas Cowboys fan, meets each Thursday with 15 other former U.S. students, most wearing old college-T-shirts, to play touch and tackle football at an American-run high school in Amman.

He said they jokingly named their team the "Arab Oilers."

He said most of the players had gone to Oklahoma State and Pennsylvania State universities. "We played for four years there," he said and each player "bought his own football before leaving and took a promise to play in Jordan."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

الصحف الأردنية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية. تأسست 1975

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

Some have sense

IT is encouraging to note the emergence of establishment figures in the Israeli political and security system who declare that Israel's future security cannot be assured by a perpetual occupation of Palestinian and other Arab lands, but rather has to follow a withdrawal by Israel from Arab lands and co-existence arrangements acceptable to both sides. The latest case in point is the statement Tuesday by Ofra Doron, spokesperson for the Israeli Council for Peace and Security, that Israel should make territorial concessions while it still enjoys a favourable military balance. Typical of the new view is Major-General Avraham Rotem, a reserve officer, who said this week that continued Israeli occupation of Arab lands would lead to war.

This would all appear to be common sense, and indeed it is, but obviously not for a majority of Israelis who cling to the notion that only military superiority and territorial expansion can assure the safety of the people of Israel. The 20th Century has provided us with many examples of military prowess and technological superiority which, in the end, failed to stand up to a determined show of nationalism by a subjugated or occupied population. Vietnam was a classic. Afghanistan is the latest. Palestine is in the making.

The important development in Israel is that this viewpoint is slowly winning more and more adherents. We do not expect a majority of Israelis to stand up tomorrow and proclaim their willingness to withdraw from the occupied territories, in return for peace with the Arabs. History does not happen in this manner. Rather, it takes the form of small, incremental steps — forwards, backwards and sometimes even sideways — steps which each indicate a small lesson learned, and steps which cumulatively combine to prod a process of rational politics based on historical realities and diplomatic inevitabilities. The truth always wins out in the end — as the Jewish people have realised by securing their national state, and as the Palestinians are showing with their sustained struggle for their national rights in Palestine.

For Israeli generals to state clearly that occupation and peace are incompatible is a useful indicator of the potential for change in Israeli society. It is only a matter of time, we believe, until the majority of Israelis appreciate this fact, and supports political processes based on the co-existence of Israeli and Palestinian states in Palestine.

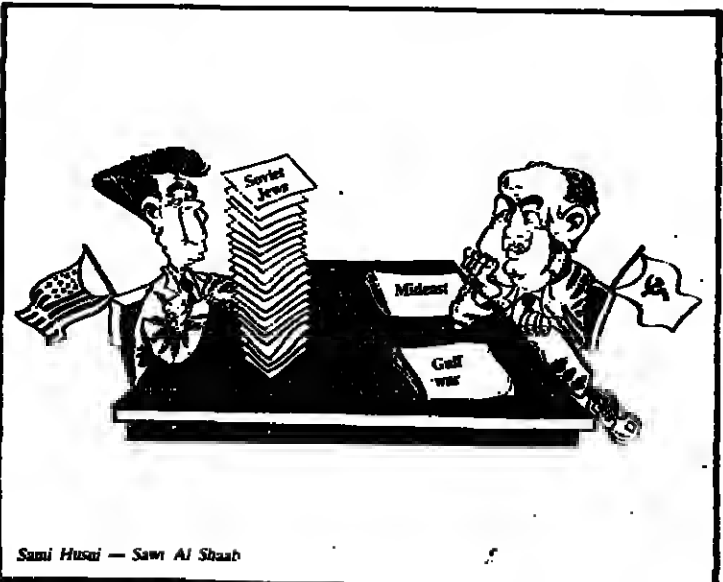
ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Rabin spills out Israel's stand

ISRAELI Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has cast doubt on the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's coming tour in the Middle East. His attitude means that Israel is determined to thwart Washington's continuous moves to find a solution for the Middle East problem. Rabin's statement reflects the Israeli government's official stand with regard to the Middle East peace initiatives in general and Shultz's proposals in particular. Rabin made the statement as reports from the superpower summit in Moscow revealed that U.S. and Soviet leaders were supporting new moves towards resolving the issue. For this reason we believe that the international community in general and the two superpowers in particular should take a firm stand vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict and force the Israeli government to give up its present intransigent position if peace is to be achieved in the region. The Soviet Union and the Western European countries are convinced of the need for holding an international conference on peace in the Middle East, and it is hoped that the U.S. will now turn its attention seriously towards the problem and help achieve that goal.

Al Dustour: Crossroads summit

IN a week's time from now the Algerian capital will become the focus of the Arab World's attention since it will be hosting an Arab summit meeting. The summit has been called for reviewing the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and means of supporting the Arab people involved in an uprising against the Israeli enemy in particular. By the time the Arab summit is convened, the world will have known the outcome of the Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting in Moscow, and the Arabs will have found out if the superpowers had discussed the Middle East question and its affiliated problems and resolutions taken in this regard. The Middle East was one of the major topics for discussion by the leaders of the two giants in view of the ongoing uprising and the seriousness of the situation in the Middle East region. The coming week will witness a new tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz who might be bringing new ideas to support Washington's proposals for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict. Therefore, one can say that the Middle East issue is now at a crossroad, and that the present initiatives could lead to the aspired solution or result in an escalation of tension and more threats of war. The latter option could materialise if the Reagan administration continues to blindly support Israel's intransigent position and its total rejection of peace based on justice.



Sawt Al Shaab: Praise the government

THE government is to be commended for the introduction of the unified allowance system for its civil servants and other government employees. The new system is designed to offer equal treatment with regard to wages of civil servants specially those with university degrees regardless of the subject they had studied. The earlier system which granted people with certain degrees a number of privileges and pay incentives resulted in large numbers of people with such degrees but without employment. The earlier system had encouraged students to study subjects that can offer them these incentives with the result that the Jordanian labour market now has a surplus of people who are required to work in remote regions or in difficult environment. This is being done to encourage people with certain skills to remain in the country, contributing to the implementation of the national development schemes. Most importantly, the new system helps the country to adapt to the present situation in the light of economic recession that affects the Middle East.

Engraved or imposed?

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An emerging phenomenon in the Arab World is the accentuation and exaggeration of differences between ethnic groups and religious factions within the region, according to an Arab intellectual.

"Confessionalism is not part of the Arab World's historical tradition, since different groups within the region have always lived together without any problems. It is only now, due to political considerations, that confessional feuds have increased," said professor of political sociology at the University of Paris, Dr. Burhan Ghalibou, who is also head of research at the United Nations University in Tokyo. He delivered a lecture last week at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation entitled, "The Confessional System and the Problems between Ethnic Groups".

Dr. Ghalibou voiced his disagreement with the prevailing ideologies which explain the existence of the confessional systems in the Arab World as an outcome of religious bigotry and "mosaic" societies. Elaborating on the latter, he said "the ideology proposes that Arab society is made up of several ethnic groups and religious factions which are not integrated in the Arab society, thereby allowing for confessionalism."

According to Dr. Ghalibou, a native of Syria who has written several books on the subject, "confessionalism has nothing to do with the presence of ethnic

and religious groups in the region."

Rather, he believes that the confessional state, which he defined as "a confederation of closed communities," is a strategy used by modern Arab governments to place major obstacles in the natural course of democracy. Both internal and external factors play roles within the strategy.

In a subsequent interview with the Jordan Times, Ghalibou said part of the problem is that institutions in the Arab World were prevented to work towards the national development of democracy by restructuring power which at present is based on complex links between Arab and international powers. "The modern Arab governments are still dependent on the Western world in many respects. Allowing for democracy is difficult to achieve because power structures fear outside interference which may threaten their power," Ghalibou said.

As a result, the tactic of "divide and rule" is implemented. First the individual's loyalty to his community is strengthened. "This is done by creating a feeling of superiority within each community over the rest, and that integration with other communities would lessen their social status," he said.

Ghalibou believes communities especially pull together and confessional feelings increase when "they are not part of or linked to the ruling elite." He pointed out that the more the political system

is tightly controlled the more confessionalism increases within the state. "The individual turns to his/her community for protection. That is why in Lebanon the elections are confessional, the candidate is not a representative of the people, but a representative of his confession."

In many cases the leaders of the communities are appeased by the distribution of some power. The authority, the area in charge, becomes a "ghetto," meaning that some of the state authority gets divided among the communities. "The state gives each head of community part of the state (power), be it a post or position or a piece of land," he said. As a result the dependence of the individuals on their community is further increased.

However, since the head of the community is supposed to be loyal to those who give him power, then the individual members of his/her community will follow. At the same time, feelings of animosity develop between the communities as their fears of losing their gains in the state increase.

Ghalibou compared what happens between the communities to the money black market. "In a black market people are interested in manipulating the laws of the market in order to increase their wealth. Similarly, communities with contradictory interests manipulate to gain monopolies since each is struggling for power within a state."

Therefore, if an individual in a community violates the commun-

ity's rules of "purity", for example by marrying or dealing with someone of a different religion or ethnic group, the whole community reacts by rejecting the action.

"Integration is a threat to the values of this political system. The community must always appear stronger in order not to lose any gains in the state, and integration shows that the internal unity of the community is weak," he says.

The end result of the confessional system is that "the individual freedoms of any member of the community are suffocated. He or she has no opinion or freedom to act as he or she wishes. Instead of individuals dealing with each other on an individual basis, blocks deal with blocks."

The solution to the confessional system does not only come through improving education and spreading the ideas of nationalism, but through a continuous work for democracy. "As the solution to the black market is to create a free market for free competition, similarly a free government which allows for the natural exchange of ideas between all people must be created."

Ghalibou has written a number of books on these issues. His works include titles like: "Manifest for Democracy", "Question of Confessionalism", "Society of the Elite", "Assassination of the Mind over the Crisis of Arab Culture", "Self Consciousness", and in French "History and Cultural Diversity."

Palestinians in West Bank, Gaza expect little from summit

By Bernard Edinger
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians fighting Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip have little hope that an Arab summit in Algiers next week will help end the occupation they have endured for 21 years.

"From experience we don't expect much from this type of meeting, but every time one is held we still hope something will be done for the Palestinians, that perhaps this time it will be different," said Sami Al Aboudi, news editor of the nationalist Al Fajr English-language weekly.

"What is important for me as a Palestinian is that the Arabs take a clear and coherent decision regarding the peace process, that they assert our right to a state in the West Bank and Gaza," Aboudi said.

Disillusioned by past Arab summits at which rhetoric was not matched by action, Palestinians

are sceptical about what a summit convened to discuss their six-month-old intifada (uprising) in the occupied territories can achieve.

Some say Arabs' preoccupation with other issues and the relegation of the Palestinian problem to second place after the Gulf war helped trigger the current revolt, in which nearly 200 Palestinians have died.

"They have been talking about convening this summit since the second month of our uprising," one activist complained. "And now they have the gall to call it an emergency summit."

Many supporters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said they wanted the summit to recognise the need for separate Israeli and Palestinian states in the area.

More flexible

Sueb talk was widely considered treasonable only a year ago, although some who publicly

called Israel a "cancer to be excised from the Middle East" were privately more flexible.

The fact that leading Palestinians now openly advocate a two-state solution suggests the uprising may be pushing Palestinians towards greater realism.

"The summit should demand the establishment of a Palestinian state within the 1967 boundaries," said Basim Barghouti, editor of the left-wing weekly Al Talla.

Mahdi Abdul Hadi, head of the Palestinian Society for the Study of International Affairs, said: "The summit could call for a permanent solution... based on two states in historic Palestine. That is what the PLO calls for now."

"In other words, revising the 1947 (U.N.) partition plan by the political recognition of the state of Israel in preparation for negotiations with an Arab delegation headed by the PLO in an international conference with full powers," Abdul Hadi said.

Many Palestinians said it was time for states to be more forthcoming in their support of the Palestinian cause.

"We don't want to hear statements anymore like that made by (former U.S. President) Jimmy Carter who said he never heard an Arab leader say he wanted a Palestinian state," said Aboudi.

Palestinian commentator Daoud Kuttub wrote in the Israeli Arab newspaper Al Senara that Arab countries' insistence on an international Middle East peace conference was "a way of running away from reality."

"The Arabs should design an effective and realistic strategy to liberate the occupied areas rather than trying to beg Israel to negotiate," Kuttub wrote.

Palestinian hardliners were most sceptical of the summit's prospects, noting that Arab states had so far failed to provide financial or military support for the uprising.

Soviet pullout will rewrite South Asian equation

By Hugh Pain
Reuters

KABUL — The Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan may herald a new period of tension in the Indian subcontinent.

"The conflicting Indian and Pakistani positions on Afghanistan will make the next few months particularly bitter — I foresee a bad patch for Indo-Pakistani relations," predicted a Western diplomat in New Delhi.

"South Asia's destiny revolves around Islamabad and New Delhi, and not Kabul," said Pakistani political commentator Ikram Ullah, adding that Islamabad saw its long-term security and defence at stake in the outcome of the conflict in Afghanistan.

Since the Soviet intervention in December 1979, the equation has been basically simple.

Pakistan, seeing a threat on its northern border, bitterly opposed the Soviet presence and permitted its territory to be used not only by some three million Afghan refugees but also by the disparate Mujahedeen rebel groups fighting the Soviets.

More significantly, it was the main channel for U.S. arms for the Mujahedeen. And although that channel was meant to dry up after last month's Geneva accords, reports from Peshawar say it is still flowing.

India, on the other hand, never criticised the action of its Soviet friends and maintained close relations with the government in Kabul.

As the Soviet Union disengages, the regional rivalry is thrown into sharper relief.

India invited President Najibullah to Delhi last month — the first non-Soviet bloc country to do so — thus firmly lining up beside him on the world's stage and incurring the wrath of Pakistan.

A Western analyst saw this as a shrewd move. If Najibullah remains in power India will have a firm friend and will also have cemented ties with the Soviet Union. On the other hand a Mujahedeen government takes power, it is certain to line up alongside Pakistan, so India has nothing to lose.

I.P. Khosla, Indian ambassador in Kabul, professed surprise over Islamabad's reaction to Najibullah's Delhi trip.

"We were a little puzzled that the Pakistanis were so angry," he said. "We consider that Afghanistan is very much part of South Asia."

Squeezing Pakistan?

A Western diplomat saw Pakistan as "increasingly paranoid about Indian intentions" and fearing being squeezed between a hostile India and a hostile Afghanistan, with an unpredictable Iran on its western border.

For Islamabad, an Islamic Mujahedeen government in Kabul would be its most valuable prize in 40 years in countering Indian dominance in the subcontinent, he said. And the Mujahedeen have confirmed that they view Pakistan as a natural ally.

"Of course we see no role for India. Instead of making up for past mistakes (Prime Minister Rajiv) Gandhi is going deeper into the political quagmire," said an official of the Jamiat-I-Islami rebel group in Peshawar, referring to the invitation to Delhi extended to Najibullah.

The prospect of this solid anti-Indian bloc in South Asia, said a diplomat, had produced "increasing Indian jitteriness over all things Pakistani."

India would try to ensure Najibullah survived in power, he said, by championing him in international forums like the Non-Aligned Movement.

Ambassador Khosla discounted this but said India would certainly continue to lobby against "the influx of U.S. arms and Pakistan's nuclear programme."

One Western diplomat put it more bluntly: "India will stir it up in Washington over why U.S.

arms supplies are continuing, and will try to mobilise the non-proliferation lobby in Congress."

Pakistan, on the other hand, will want to keep India firmly out of the battle for Afghanistan.

Despite the departure of the Soviets, the battle is far from over for Afghanistan or for South Asia.

OPEN FORUM

Wrong Timing

I FIND it strange and ironic that the UNRWA teachers would even think to protest publicly and demand higher wages and better services at a time when the children who are being educated by UNRWA in the occupied territories are protesting against Israeli occupation. If Adnan Hamad, head of the protesters, does not allow anyone to doubt our feelings towards our people in the occupied territories, and that the two issues have nothing to do with each other, as he claims to the Jordan Times, then he should have gone through with a sit-in during a Palestinian uprising. This only makes people doubt his objectives and arguments. Demands by the teachers have been made during the past few years, and have been ignored. I think that they should have either decided to perform sit-ins before the uprising, or — if they had waited for a few years already — forgot about the whole matter for the time being.

Hamad should consider the fact that UNRWA teachers receive higher wages than government school teachers, and that they even receive higher wages than most of the private schools. The protesters should also realise that most private school teachers do not receive retirement pension. They should also think of themselves as offering worthwhile services to a good cause rather than being greedy and selfish. Why haven't UNRWA teachers in the occupied territories, who face many more problems than those on this side, staged any sit-ins in the past or present?

Hamad also told the Jordan Times that each classroom contains 50 students instead of 25 to 30 "which reflects negatively on the quality of education they receive." Even though UNRWA schools are known to offer some of the best education in the area, it makes more sense if demands were made to allocate money to build more classrooms rather than increase personal wages.

Anyway, UNRWA is known to be one of the finest and most efficient United Nations organisations. It serves one worthwhile purpose: Helping the Palestinian refugees, while also helping the Palestinian staff. I find it discouraging that 4,000 teachers who are employed by such an organisation be so selfish while their purpose is supposed to be the opposite. They should be grateful that they work for a good cause and should think of where they might be if it weren't for UNRWA schools.

Sami Atiyeh

Arab American leaders meet with Virginia governor

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA (J.T.) — On May 9, Arab American leaders met with Virginia Governor Gerald Baliles in Richmond.

The Arab Americans brought with them a number of proposals designed both to enhance Virginia's trade relationships with the Arab World and to promote a better understanding of the Arab World, its people and culture, among the people of Virginia.

"We are very excited about developing this relationship," said Dr. James Zogby, Director of the Arab American Institute (AAI) and spokesman for the group. "This effort first began in October 1985 when a group of us organised an Arab American fundraiser for then candidate Gerald Baliles. It has taken about three years to move to the final proposal phase — now we are ready to go."

Dr. Zogby and Helen Hatab Samhan, an Arab American Democratic activist from Fairfax County, met Governor Baliles in April of 1986, informing him of the desire to improve commercial and cultural ties between Virginia and the Arab World. Since then Arab Americans have been working with Eva Sayegh Teig, Virginia Secretary of Human Resources and member of the governor's cabinet. Governor Baliles designated Mrs. Teig as his liaison with the state's Arab American constituency.

While Arab Americans were deeply concerned with the nature and timing of the governor's recent trip to Israel, Richmond activist Dr. Ali Hossaini noted that "our meeting with the governor should not be viewed as purely a reactive one. We were not there to protest — but to offer specific, constructive proposals to the governor. This is not an either/or situation, but an and/also one. There are about 100,000 Arab Americans in Virginia and they want to play a positive role in building this state's economy."

The proposals offered by the group include:

- * future meetings between the State of Virginia and trade delegations from Arab countries;
- * a trade mission headed by the governor in early 1989 to the Arab states;
- * support for cultural exhibitions by state institutions on the Arab World; and
- * the provision of educational materials to the State by the Arab American community for placement in libraries and institutions throughout the state.

In addition, the delegate presented Governor Baliles with a letter detailing concerns Arab Americans have with the Virginia-Israel commission and with the governor's recent trip to Israel. The letter offered a specific proposal for Virginia to expand trade directly with Palestinian businesses in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Members of the Arab American delegation include: Jean AbiNader, President, National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce; Bishara Costantini, Virginia Desk, AAI; William Habboush, Attorney, Dr. Ali Hossaini, Arab American Democrats, Richmond Chapter; Helen Hatab Samhan, Deputy Director, AAI; Saba L. Shami, Coordinator, Arab American Democratic Club of Northern Virginia; Salah Turkmani, President, Arab American Business Association; and Dr. James J. Zogby, Executive Director, AAI.

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AMMAN, JORDAN

Hostage hopes 'cruelly dashed'

LONDON (AP) — Terry Waite's family is disappointed that the Syrians' move into south Beirut has failed to turn up any trace of the missing Church of England envoy, who turned 49 Tuesday.

"It all looked so likely," he said of the Syrian army's takeover of the west Beirut district where Western hostages are believed to be held.

"Everyone was completely optimistic that they would be found but now we are back to square one."

Terry Waite has not been seen since leaving his Beirut hotel Jan. 20, 1987 to negotiate with Islamic Jihad for the release of Western hostages. No one has claimed responsibility for kidnapping him.

David Waite said the family's hopes were "cruelly dashed" after the Syrians moved into the area and came up empty handed.

"The Syrian troops were probably walking along the very streets where the hostages are being held," he said.

"They could probably hear their footsteps in their cells. That's the most agonising thing — knowing that release and liberty are so near and yet still so far away."

David Waite said birthday cards, presents and flowers have been arriving at his cousin's London home "as they did last year, and he will have a lot of good wishes to come home to."

"Terry's release would have been the best birthday present of all," he said.



A Syrian special forces soldier deployed in south Beirut earlier this week passes before the poster of missing Shi'ite leader Imam Musa Sadr.

"As it is, we have not marked it. It seemed improper. But he is in our thoughts every day."

Waite is one of 18 foreigners currently missing in Lebanon.

10,000 signatures

A greeting card with some 10,000 signatures is on the way to the Middle East and, the senders hope, hostage Terry Anderson.

Residents of Anderson's hometown of Batavia, New York, signed the card and presented it to his sister, Peggy Say, Tuesday.

"It will warm Terry's heart," Say said.

Chances dim for new talks on Gulf ceasefire

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Tehran gave what an Iranian spokesman called a positive response Tuesday to a proposal by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar for technical talks on setting a date for a ceasefire in the Gulf war.

But, as in the past, Iran stopped short of declaring its unequivocal acceptance of a ceasefire resolution adopted by the Security Council last July.

And council sources said Iraq's reply this month to the same proposal set conditions, including Iran's clear-cut acceptance of the resolution, that seemed to rule out any new talks.

The secretary general is expected to report to the council soon on the apparent impasse.

According to an Iranian spokesman, Iran's "positive response" was handed to Perez de Cuellar Tuesday by Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, now in New York to address a special session of the General Assembly on disarmament.

The spokesman said Iran accepted the secretary general's proposal for the two countries to name technical experts to confer for up to three weeks with a U.N. technical team at an unnamed location about dates for triggering a U.N. plan to implement the ceasefire resolution.

The long-drawn-out plan provides for a so-called "D-day," when both sides would observe a ceasefire and when an impartial body to determine responsibility for the conflict would begin its work.

Other parts of the resolution, including the start of a mutual troop withdrawal, would go into effect a certain number of days after D-day.

The Iranian reply was said to have blamed "sabotage by Iraq" for that fact that the mandatory council resolution, Number 598, remained a dead letter nearly 11 months after its unanimous adoption.

The response also reiterated Tehran's long-standing demand that any solution to the conflict should have as its first step the "identification of the aggressor."

Iraq's reply, according to council sources, rejected any further talks until Iran had given its unequivocal, written acceptance of Resolution 598.

Iraq was also said to have frowned on technical-level talks, saying discussions should be at foreign ministers level or above, like those the secretary general conducted separately with the two sides last December and again in April.

Morocco, Algeria reopen borders, abolish visas

RABAT (R) — Algeria and Morocco have decided to reopen their border and restore communications after a 12-year political and diplomatic rift.

A joint statement issued Tuesday night after Algerian Interior Minister Ali Hadi Khediri conferred with King Hassan at the palace in Rabat, said visas would be abolished for nationals of each country.

It said that at talks between Khediri and his Moroccan counterpart Driss Basri in Rabat Tuesday it was agreed that a joint commission would decide no later than June 5 on details to restore air, sea, land, rail and telecommunication links between the two countries.

Communications of all kinds between Algeria and Morocco were cut to a strict minimum for 12 years. Trade which used to be substantial was reduced to almost nothing but small-time smuggling across the desert frontier.

The commission is to meet alternatively in Algiers and Rabat to agree on final details before next Sunday, and in the meantime the free passage of persons and merchandise will be progressively resumed from the same date, the statement said.

The decisions follow the restoration two weeks ago of diplomatic ties broken off by Rabat in 1976 when Algeria began backing Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence of the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony.

The statement made no mention of the Sahara conflict which remains a point of contention between the two states.

It said the measures were decided "within the framework of treaties, conventions and accords concluded" before relations were broken off.

King Hassan is expected in Algiers next Sunday on his first visit to Algeria since 1973 when he attended a special Arab summit after the Arab-Israeli war earlier in the year.

During his visit the Moroccan monarch will also attend the extraordinary Arab summit in Algiers June 7, convened to rally Arab support for the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

His trip will put the seal on his reconciliation with President Chadli Benjedid whom he met one year ago on their frontier in the presence of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia who is credited with making peace between the former foes.



King Hassan



Chadli Benjedid

Fewer Soviet Jews opt for Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — The number of Soviet Jews refusing to come to Israel reached a record high in May when over 90 per cent of the emigrants chose to settle elsewhere, a Soviet Jewish activist told the Israeli news agency Itim Tuesday.

Chaim Chesser, head of the public council for Soviet Jewry, told Itim that soon no Soviet Jewish emigrants would come to Israel unless they were flown here via Bucharest instead of Vienna, where they are free to immigrate to other Western countries.

Israeli officials are embarrassed by the high dropout figure because of their 20-year-old battle, for the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate on the grounds Israel is their homeland.

Israeli leaders claim 400,000 Soviet Jews want to settle in Israel. But less than 20 per cent of those who leave the Soviet Union actually settle here.

Chesser said that of the 1,169 Jews who left the Soviet Union in May, only 110, or 9.9 per cent, came to Israel, a drop of almost seven per cent compared with the previous month.

Of 4,695 Soviet Jews who have emigrated since the beginning of 1988, 18 per cent have settled in Israel, Chesser said.

Chesser, and other activists on behalf of Soviet Jewry, continue to claim that Moscow is preventing would-be Israeli immigrants from leaving. They mounted demonstrations on the eve of the Moscow summit, urging President Ronald Reagan to promote their cause.

Soviet leaders say all Jews who wanted to settle in Israel have already left the Soviet Union.

According to the Geneva-based agency helping resettle Soviet Jews, the number of Jews leaving the Soviet Union in May was 1,145 and those opting for Israel numbered 162.

May marked the fourth straight month of increasing Jewish emigration, bringing the total for 1988 to 4,547 Soviet Jews arriving at the Vienna transit centre, the intergovernmental committee for migration said Wednesday.

The May figure was the highest since April 1981, when 1,155 Jews left the Soviet Union.

Lebanon changes to summer time

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon moved its clocks one hour forward to summer time Wednesday, bringing the country's time system three hours ahead of GMT.

Israel drops Sofaer inquiry

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has dropped an investigation of U.S. State Department Legal Adviser Abraham Sofaer who was suspected of taking archaeological artifacts out of the country illegally for 15 years, Israel Army Radio said Tuesday. The radio said the investigation was dropped because the alleged violations were purely technical. Government officials determined that Sofaer was one of thousands of tourists who buy antiquities and take them home without knowing they are breaking the law, the radio said.

Lebanese jailed in Israel

LOD (AP) — An Israeli military court sentenced a Lebanese man to 30 years in prison Wednesday for participating in a commando attack that killed three Israeli soldiers on patrol in South Lebanon. Anwar Mahmud Mubaha Yassin, 20, was the only survivor of the 10-man group that carried out the Sept. 15 surprise attack in which five Israeli troops were also wounded. After the sentence was read, Yassin tried to lunge at the three-judge panel. He struck a military policeman before being overcome by several other officers and led handcuffed out of court.

Abu Dhabi, Prague establish relations

VIENNA (R) — Czechoslovakia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will establish diplomatic relations June 1, the official Czechoslovak news agency Ceteke reported Tuesday.

Superpowers draw closer on Mideast

(Continued from page 1)

Gorbachev declared: "They have tried, and they have seen that they can't do a thing."

Describing outstanding problems, he said: "There are some elements that would need further discussion and elaboration — that is, the very content of the conference, and the question of Palestine, and the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in the negotiating process."

The United States opposes the Soviet view that an international conference should be empowered to set the terms of a Middle East settlement, and says Israel should negotiate directly with the Arabs.

The United States also refuses to deal directly with the PLO. U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is expected to visit the Middle East immediately after the Moscow summit to pursue the new American proposal for an Arab-Israeli settlement.

Gorbachev said Wednesday that as soon as an international conference is convened on the Middle East, "we are prepared to address ourselves to regularising relations with Israel," severed in 1967.

At separate news conferences, Reagan and Gorbachev cited the agreement on Afghanistan as an example of what can be achieved on regional conflicts if the superpowers work together with nations or parties directly involved to solve them.

But Gorbachev went on to note that Soviet troops and Moscow's embassy in Kabul are coming under attack and that Tuesday Soviet soldiers died in an attack near Kandahar.

If Soviet forces come under attack as they withdraw, "we shall react accordingly and appropriately," Gorbachev said. "That should be absolutely clear."

A senior U.S. official who briefed reporters on the summit talks said there was common ground between the superpowers on a number of general principles for a Middle East settlement, but that Washington and Moscow diverged on how to apply them.

"We can agree the region is getting more dangerous, particularly in the proliferation of ballistic missiles and chemical weapons. We can agree that there are some worrisome military trends, and I think we can say that we both believe that there is really no alternative to an active peace process," the official said.

But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added: "We diverge on trying to give these general principles operational detail... the approaches of the two sides are, in reality, driven by different assumptions."

'Era of disarmament' ushered

(Continued from page 1)

the achievement of substantial additional common ground" which provided the basis for concluding an accord, the statement said.

But at a news conference lasting nearly two hours, the first ever held on home territory by a Soviet leader, a clearly disappointed Gorbachev declared: "I think we could have achieved more during this meeting."

He blamed the lack of progress on the United States, saying Reagan had initially approved a Soviet proposal to include in the statement a phrase proclaiming that the superpowers believed in peaceful coexistence. But Gorbachev said Reagan had pulled back after consulting his aides.

"So I believe we have missed a chance to take an important step forward towards civilised relations... after all, we do want to coexist peacefully, don't we?" the 57-year-old Kremlin chief demanded with a gesture of exasperation.

Gorbachev was sharply critical of the U.S. stand on reducing the non-nuclear forces in Europe of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Warsaw Pact.

He said Reagan had rejected a Soviet proposal to exchange data on the troops as a first step towards a massive reduction.

The United States engaged in "incomprehensible manoeuvres" and "we missed a chance to take an important step forward to a civil relationship," he added.

Gorbachev generally praised Reagan although he said U.S. economic and arms policies were often contradictory.

Gorbachev summarised their meetings as "big politics, politics that affect millions of millions of people."

Reagan praised the INF treaty as historic because it mandates the elimination of an entire class of nuclear weapons. "We must not stop here, Mr. General Secretary. There is much more to be done," he said.

The president said a 24-page summit communiqué would highlight areas of progress towards a strategic arms pact and that they should move forward in the months ahead to complete it.

Despite the lack of major agreements, it was an upbeat windup to the fourth summit in 30 months between the two leaders.

Gorbachev made a point of noting that Reagan had said he no longer viewed the Soviet Union as an "evil empire." Reagan said Tuesday he had been talking about "another time, another era."

The Soviet leader said, "we take note of this," noting that "everything flows, everything changes."

In the absence of a strategic arms pact, Gorbachev said "we will not make any dramatic conclusions" at this summit. However, he said, they were moving "step by step" towards an eventual treaty.

U.N. reports deaths by tear-gas in occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

and Licensing Department resigned Wednesday in protest at Israeli policies, Palestinian sources told Reuters.

They had been summoned to a midnight meeting with Brigadier-General Shaikha Erez, head of the West Bank civil administration, and secret police officials urged not to quit, the sources said, but they refused to change their minds.

In the Gaza Strip, the head of the UNRWA Bernard Mills, appealed to the Israeli authorities to restore normal telephone services to his organisation.

"We've been without phones effectively now for three months ever since the international telephone lines were cut off for the

Gaza Strip," he said.

The 11 tear-gas fatalities were reported through the end of April by doctors who work in clinics in the U.N. administered refugee camps, Lee said. He added most of those killed were either infants, one as young as seven days, or elderly people over 65.

Also among the victims was a 35-year-old woman in Gaza who died along with her unborn child after going into labour prematurely as a result of inhaling tear-gas, Lee said.

Palestinian hospital officials have repeatedly told reporters in the past that Israeli soldiers were using a new, more toxic gas on demonstrators. Israeli army officials denied it.

Lee said the type of gas used by

Israel apparently causes muscle spasms which can trigger early labour or miscarriages, and that dozens of such cases have been reported in the occupied territories.

"We have seen serious side effects, but we have had no analysis to show what this is caused by," said Lee.

Dr. John Hiddlestone, director for UNRWA health affairs, said in Vienna April 14 after visiting the occupied territories that the Israelis were using a gas against Palestinians that causes abdominal pain, miscarriages and muscular weakness.

"I am a physician and people are having symptoms other than normal tear-gas symptoms," said Hiddlestone.

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Foreign investments in U.S. decline

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign purchases of U.S. businesses dropped 22 per cent to \$30.5 billion in 1987, the first dip since 1983 in the rush by overseas investors to acquire American assets, the government said Tuesday.

However, analysts said foreign investment was still high — nearly four times the 1983 level of \$8.1 billion. And they cautioned that last year's total would likely be revised upward and that the difference between 1986 and 1987 may have been distorted by tax law changes.

The Commerce Department said foreigners spent \$39.2 billion to acquire or establish businesses in the United States in 1986, compared with \$23.1 billion in 1985 and \$15.2 billion in 1984.

However, more than half of the 1986 spending occurred in the final three months of that year as businesses rushed to complete deals before the capital gains tax rate increased on Jan. 1, 1987.

"Everybody was trying to close deals in 1986 because of tax considerations, so it's quite possible that 1986 just borrowed some sales from 1987," said David Wyss, an economist with Data Resources Inc., a Lexington, Massachusetts, forecasting firm.

Ellen M. Herr, a Commerce Department analyst, said if past years are any guide, the 1987 total will be revised upward by 10 per cent or more as additional deals are reported to the government. The 1986 figure had originally been reported at \$31.5 billion, nearly 20 per cent less than the revised figure released Tuesday.

The major driving force behind

the big jump in foreign investment in the United States has been this country's huge trade deficit, which hit a record \$171.2 billion last year.

Foreigners have looked for ways to invest their dollars, earned through sales of foreign cars and other imports popular with Americans. As a consequence, the United States has moved from the world's largest creditor to the world's largest debtor, meaning that foreigners now hold more in U.S. investments than Americans hold in overseas investments.

Wyss said foreign investment would likely increase this year because of the continued decline of the dollar, which has lost approximately half of its value since 1985 when measured against the Japanese yen.

"The U.S. right now looks like a very competitive place to produce U.S. companies, especially

when you look at them in yen terms, look very cheap and you're going to see continued strong buying," he said.

Foreigners have also been buying corporate bonds, treasury notes, stocks and other investments that do not show up in the report released Tuesday. It tallies money spent to establish new businesses or purchase a 10 per cent or greater stake in existing companies.

U.S. businesses acquired or established in 1987 employed 346,000 workers.

The report showed that Great Britain was the largest purchaser at \$11.5 billion, up from \$8.6 billion in 1986. It was followed by Japan with \$5.3 billion, down from \$5.4 billion a year earlier and West Germany, \$4.1 billion, up from \$1.4 billion.

Investment by all European nations dropped to \$19.5 billion from \$21.1 billion.

April trading at Amman Financial Market eases

AMMAN (J.T.) — Trading was relatively quiet at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during April 1988 when only 4,468,607 shares were traded at both the regular and parallel markets.

An AFM statistical bulletin, just released, said that a total of 5,912 transactions were concluded for the trading of the shares which were worth JD 4,835,055.

In comparison, the bulletin said, the 1987 April trading involved 12,988,760 shares worth JD 20,062,358 concluded through 14,775 transactions.

As a result, the April 1988 figures show a decline in the number of shares, the volume of trading and the number of transactions by 66.76 and 60 per cent respectively.

There was a noticeable drop in the trading in the regular market during April 1988 with the total number of traded shares amounting to 3,526,590 at a market value of JD 4,324,601 and concluded through 5,120 transactions.

The bulletin shows that shares of 72 Jordanian public shareholding companies were involved in the April 1988 transactions. These included 22 banks and financial institutions, seven insurance companies, 12 service companies, and 31 industrial firms.

The bulletin shows also that AFM's activities during April 1988 covered only 31 days with a daily average of 167,933 shares and a daily volume of trading averaging JD 205,933 conducted through a daily average of 244 transactions.

According to the bulletin, there was a drop of 2.7 points in the price of shares during April 1988 or nearly 2.4 per cent decline on the closing price during March 1988.

The total number of companies whose shares were traded during April 1987 stood at 76, of which 22 were of banks and financial institutions, 13 insurance, nine service sector, and 32 were of industrial companies, according to the bulletin.

It said that in April 1987 the total daily number of traded shares was 521,149, the average daily volume of trading was 909,411 and the average daily transactions, 639.

The bulletin showed that in the parallel market there was a trading of 942,017 shares worth JD 519,454 concluded through 792 transactions during April 1988 which also witnessed the trading of 63,073 development bonds and other debentures worth JD 745,260.

Industrial Development Bank approves loans worth JD 2.2m

AMMAN (Petra) — The Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has granted Jordanian businesses 19 loans totalling JD 2.216 million in the first quarter of 1988, according to an IDB statement.

It said that these loans included 17 that went for the expansion of existing industries.

According to the statement, the enterprises had invested no less than JD 2.8 million in their projects for which they acquired the loans.

It said that the new expansions

are expected to yield JD 5 million in additional national income during the first year of production, and to create 53 new jobs.

According to the statement, nearly 62 per cent of the loans went for the purchase of machinery and the rest financed the buying of raw materials and construction operations.

The loans were for the paper, chemical, mineral, textile, plastic, timber and food processing industries.

Japan's average household earns \$40,000 annual income

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's average household income has topped \$5 million yen (\$40,000) a year, but nearly half of all households report difficulties in making ends meet, said a survey released Wednesday.

The nationwide survey conducted by the health and welfare

ministry showed the average income of Japanese households was 5,005 million yen (\$40,400) for the year ended Dec. 31, 1986.

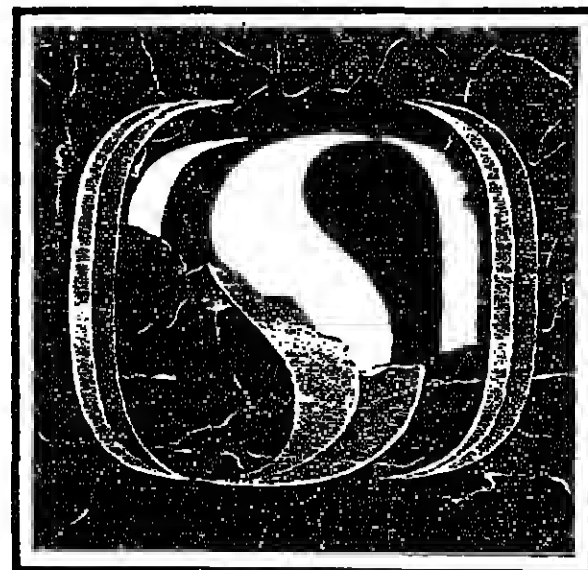
The figure was 2.5 per cent higher than the previous year but still the lowest increase since the first such survey was conducted in 1962.

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AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for June 1, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	322254	JD 375871	444
Top three companies:			
Arah Bank	420	JD 47873	12
National Steel Industries	28250	JD 77391	36
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	29800	JD 38603	60
Parallel market:	26215	JD 14170	—
Development bonds:	—	—	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.8280/90	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2335/45	Canadian dollar
	1.7205/12	Deutsche marks
	1.9275/85	Dutch guilders
	1.4345/55	Swiss francs
	35.93/96	Belgian francs
	5.8120/70	French francs
	1280/1281	Italian lire
	125.13/23	Japanese yen
	5.9900/50	Swedish crowns
	6.2775/2825	Norwegian crowns
	6.5475/5525	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	456.70/457.20	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The Australian market closed sharply higher but profit-taking in afternoon trade brought a retreat from earlier highs. The All Ordinaries Index rose 18.8 points to close at 1,585.8, after peaking at 1,601.4.

TOKYO — Share prices closed sharply higher in heaviest trade this year due to enthusiastic buying, spurred by Wall Street's overnight jump. The Nikkei Index surged 287.21 points, or 1.05 per cent, to close at 27,703.91.

HONG KONG (H) — Prices closed higher but off a morning peak, with investors still nervous over Wall Street's volatility. The Hang Seng Index rose 19.56 to 2,516.24.

SINGAPORE — Prices rose for the sixth straight day in active trading, with brokers attributing the trend to a higher Wall Street. The Straits Times Industrial Index rose 7.15 to 1,006.44.

BOMBAY — A two-day rally ended with wide-spread profit taking, triggered by end-account considerations and fears of higher contango charges.

FRANKFURT — Prices closed higher, but off their best levels for the day, with a buoyant start cut short by a dollar and sterling decline. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, rose 19.9 to 1,401.0.

ZURICH — Prices were higher across the board in heavy turnover as the dollar stayed firm against the Swiss franc. The All-Share Swiss Index rose 12.2 to 834.4.

PARIS — Prices ended an active session firmer but the mixed early trend on Wall Street cut into earlier strong advances. The 50-share bourse indicator rose by 0.99 per cent.

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Japan seeks lower M.E. oil prices

TOKYO (R) — Japanese companies are playing Middle East oil producers against each other to get lower and lower crude oil prices, oil industry sources said Wednesday.

Middle East crudes are already selling at more than \$2.50 under the \$18 a barrel OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) target price.

OPEC abandoned fixed prices early this year in favour of prices linked to the freely-traded market.

Japan has since demanded ever cheaper oil and refused to buy oil from countries which resist, the

sources said. All the main Middle East producers have been forced to give in because world markets continue to be over-supplied with oil.

"They are all already selling at market-related prices, but still Japan keeps wanting to screw another five cents out of them," said an oil analyst.

Iran, after cutting its prices for shipments made in April to July, will now be asked to reduce prices once again from July to compete with cuts made last week by Kuwait, they said.

Japan, the major market for Middle East oil, is in a strong

bargaining position having just topped its crude stockpiles with enough oil to last an estimated 105 days.

Demand from Japan is expected to fall in July by around 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) from the June level because refineries have bought more than 30 million barrels of extra oil in the past three months.

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, anticipating the fall, have allowed Japanese customers to buy less than the usual minimum amount but at five cents more per barrel.

"This is a ridiculous situation where volume gets you discounts

— which implies that OPEC is looking for volume at a time when it should be cutting back," said the analyst.

The key Middle East crude Dubai, which is used as a benchmark to price other Middle East crudes, is expected to lose value on the free market as Japan seeks away from buying this grade to keep prices under pressure, oil sources said.

Oil ministers of the 13-member OPEC group are scheduled to meet in Vienna next week to review oil prices and production, but oil traders expect no big changes.

FRIDAY'S RACES AT THE ROYAL RACING CLUB - JUNE 3

FIRST RACE 4.00 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mccarar, Rana Sami	11 Basam	Owner	—	56
2- Abdullah A. El Rahem	Adham	Owner	Rasheed	53
3- Sam, Ahmad Ashen	Sai	Owner	—	53
4- Mohammad A. Bazzec	Mabrouk	Owner	El-Daham	53
5- Sath El Havan	S El Ghaz	Owner	Amad	52
6- Mohammad Fatah Khalil	Shamoh	Owner	—	52
7- A. A. B. Asa	M. Imad	Owner	Mostafa	48.5
8- Mamdouh, Muhammad Khalil	W. Hakim	Owner	—	48.5
9- Shaghat A. Fokala	F. Ruc	Owner	Mousa	48.5
10- Naha Mohammad Khalil	F. Paris	Owner	Rousal	48.5
11- A. El Setai Matar	J. Mshaka	Owner	Amad	48.5
12- Dr. A. E. Hana A. Wandy	F. Mages	Owner	—	48.5
13- Mohammad Tawik Ayed	K. Gassam	Owner	—	48.5
14- Ahmad Mohammad Hattay	S. Hader	Owner	Mwalat	48.5
15- A. Abdulah Achian	Madv	Owner	—	56

FOURTH RACE 5.15 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mashhour Faisal A. Jnaib	Al Fahuz	Owner	Yousel	54.5
2- Mashhour Faisal A. Jnaib	T. El Tianaja	Owner	Suman	53
3- Nama, Wasil Bsharat	S. Ehat	Owner	Khar Eldin Rasheed	53
4- H. Late Sheril Nasir Stabile	Fozan	Owner	Abbas	53
5- H. Late Sheril Nasir Stabile	Saim	Owner	Abbas	53
6- H. Late Sheril Nasir Stabile	Fareem	Owner	Abbas	53
7- H. Late Sheril Nasir Stabile	Borhan	Owner	—	53
8- H. Late Sheril Nasir Stabile	Enishuans	Owner	—	48.5
9- Sami, Yacoub Makdous	A. El Fawans	Owner	A. Jaber	53
10- Abdulgh El Dawoud	Ghobar	Owner	—	50
11- Mamdouh Anwar El Shalan	Mahaba	Owner	George	50
12- Mansour Anwar El Shalan	Sulimh	Owner	Mohsin	48.5
13- Naser Anwar El Shalan	Munah	Owner	Mohsin	48.5
14- Sultan Faisal A. Jnaib	Shal El-Arab	Owner	—	48.5

SECOND RACE 4.30 FOR BEGINNER HORSES DISTANCE 1600 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Ibrahim Hraish	Musate	Owner	—	56
2- Aly Fares El Saad	M. El Fhar	Owner	Khar Eldin Amad	53
3- Aly Fares El Saad	B. Elait	Owner	Khar Eldin Rasheed	53
4- Ibrahim Hany Bsharat	Haram	Owner	Khar Eldin Mostafa	53
5- Nami El Hmoud	Sahory	Owner	Saad	51.5
6- Nami El Hmoud	Kahlan	Owner	—	50
7- Nami El Hmoud	Adary	Owner	—	48.5
8- Fawaz Anwar El Shalan	Abshu	Owner	Zaatar	50
9- Nawal Anwar El Shalan	Ahad	Owner	Mohsin	50

FIFTH RACE 5.40 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1000 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Ibrahim Hraish	Waly	Owner	Adnan	56
2- Mansour Anwar El Shalan	Mazyun	Owner	Mohsin	55
3- H. Late Sheril Nasir Stabile	Azzih	Owner	Abbas	54.5
4- H. Late Sheril Nasir Stabile	Sabalan	Owner	Abbas	53
5- Nami El Hmoud	Mashari	Owner	Khar Eldin Rasheed	53.5
6- Nami El Hmoud	Oupomak	Owner	Khar Eldin Mostafa	53
7- Nami El Hmoud	Sahel	Owner	—	51.5
8- Nami El Hmoud	Baryar	Owner	Saad	48.5
9- Mamdouh Anwar El Shalan	Izma	Owner	Zaatar	50
10- Fawaz Anwar El Shalan	El Hoda	Owner	Mohsin	48.5
11- Ghazy A. Jabir	M. Naja	Owner	Sulman	48.5
12- Shal Ghazy A. Jabir	M. Naja	Owner	—	50

THIRD RACE 4.50 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Mohammad Khalil Mary	S. Hazim	Owner	Mostafa	62
2- Mohammad A. El Naby	Makadree	Owner	El Daham	62
3- Mashhour Faisal A. Jnaib	N. El Sall	Owner	Yousel	60
4- Mansour Mohammad Matar	S. Saad	Owner	—	56
5- Abdulah Mousa Rahhal	N. El Aswad	Owner	Almad	56
6- Sultan Faisal A. Jnaib	M. Sallan	Owner	Sulman	54.5
7- Fatah Fathi Oudh	S. El Arab	Owner	Amad	53
8- Oudh El Karsy	I. El Beel	Owner	Mwalat	53
9- Shady, Khalid El Farez	Ghanam	Owner	Fawaz	52
10- Dr. A. El Hataez A. Wandy	D. Mages	Owner	A. Amareh	50
11- Ahmad Said Rhael	El Moneb	Owner	—	50

SIXTH RACE 6.5 FOR THIRD CLASS HORSES DISTANCE 1400 METRES

Owner	Horse	Trainer	Jockey	Weight
1- Naja Wasil Bsharat	Waidan	Owner	Khar Eldin Mostafa	58
2- Khalil Haddadin	A. Etzaman	Owner	A. Jabir	58
3- Nawal Anwar El Shalan	Sarkh	Owner	Mohsin	56
4- Nami El Hmoud	H. El Romman	Owner	Khar Eldin Rasheed	55
5- Nami El Hmoud	Aghadeel	Owner	Saad	53.5
6- Nami El Hmoud	Hattab	Owner	—	53
7- Aly Fares El Saad	Saad Aly	Owner	Khar Eldin Mousa	53
8- Faisal Anwar El Farez	Nasrin	Owner	—	52.5
9- Maysam Ibrahim Bsharat	M. Dina	Owner	Khar Eldin George	48.5

CAMEL RACE DISTANCE 2200 METRES

1- Shaiman Mishul	Widan
2- Mohammad Askar	Nijar
3- Said El Ayvan	Ijlan
4- Aly Ociah	Shalan
5- Mlaeh Ewared	Ashban
6- Hussien Imael	Hatoul
7- Fanatit Mearh	Shagan
8- Hal Awwad	Kodan
9- Salamh Eied	Shaeel
10- Eied Salamh	Hazzal

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NAKED VENGEANCE

Lakers blow out Mavericks to take NBA series lead

LOS ANGELES (R) — The defending champion Lakers, back home in the celebrity-filled Los Angeles forum after two straight road losses, routed the Dallas Mavericks 119-102 Tuesday to take a 3-2 lead in their best-of-seven National Basketball Association (NBA) Western Conference finals.

The Mavericks have never won a playoff game in Los Angeles in nine attempts, but the series moves back to Dallas for the sixth game where they will try to equalize Thursday.

Every facet of the Los Angeles offense was working on Tuesday night and Dallas defenders were left looking helpless as the Lakers blew past them or used deadly accurate shooting to score from outside.

Los Angeles got the league's most feared fast break working from the start and led 24-14 after eight minutes of play.

With Hollywood stars like Jack Nicholson, Kirk Douglas, Walter Matthau and Dyan Cannon leading the cheers, the Lakers built up a 17-point halftime edge, 64-47.

James Worthy led the Lakers with 29 points and 41-year-old Los Angeles center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar added 21 points. Lakers' superstar guard Earvin "Magic" Johnson, despite playing with a groin injury, contributed 15 points and 20 assists.

Mark Aguirre paced the Dallas attack with 31 points.

West Germany reserves Olympic soccer berth

DORTMUND, West Germany (AP) — West Germany, helped by two goals from Jurgen Klinsmann, beat Romania 3-0 (1-0) Tuesday and clinched the last berth in the Seoul Olympics' soccer tournament.

The West Germans needed a victory to edge Denmark in final European qualifying group standings and become the 16th and last team to qualify.

They pressed from the start and missed several opportunities before taking the lead in the 37th minute.

Romanian goalkeeper Dumitru deflected Wolfram Wunkke's first effort from the spot, but the West German midfielder pounced on the rebound and slammed the ball home.

After the interval, the West Germans took a more cautious approach and waited for openings in the crowded Romanian defence.

The plan paid off with two goals from Klinsmann, Bundesliga's top scorer who will lead the West German attack in next month's European Championships.

In the 57th minute, Thomas Haessler won a ball in midfield, sent Frank Mill chasing down the right wing and Klinsmann drove home Mill's perfect cross.

Johnson still plans to meet Lewis

MADRID (R) — Canadian Ben Johnson still hopes to clash three times with rival sprinter Carl Lewis before the Olympics despite a leg injury which will keep him out for some time, his agent Larry Heiderbrecht said Tuesday.

Heiderbrecht said three planned 100 metres races pitting world record-holder Johnson against U.S. Olympic gold medalist Lewis were still in prospect and potentially worth about \$500,000 to each athlete.

He said he did not know how long Johnson would be sidelined after injuring his left tendon in Tokyo two weeks ago.

"We don't know if and when he'll race in June or not... if not, we will run them all in August or one after the Olympics in Tokyo. It is still being worked on," Heiderbrecht said.

He said he was trying to arrange a race over 200 metres with Lewis at a meeting in Bologna August 13-14.

In Toronto, a Canadian athletics spokeswoman said the injury would keep Johnson out of action until six weeks before the Seoul Olympics, starting next September.

Brenda Bedard, Canadian Track and Field Association spokeswoman, said the injured athlete was not expected to return to competition until the Canadian Championships, which begin on August 5.

Lendl outclasses McEnroe in French Open tennis match

PARIS (R) — Ivan Lendl gave a perfect demonstration of power tennis to demolish John McEnroe in double quick time when play resumed Wednesday in their dadlocked match at the French Open Championships.

Lendl needed just 56 minutes to complete a 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over his arch-rival in a match which had been tantalizingly poised at one-set all and 4-2 to the Czechoslovak when bad light stopped play Tuesday.

The match had been a classic up to that point, pitting Lendl's strength and fitness against McEnroe's touch and ingenuity but it fizzled out all too quickly.

Lendl served as well as he has ever done and McEnroe was only able to collect three points off his seven service games after the resumption.

"I knew I had a break in hand in the third set and it was important to concentrate and keep on top," Lendl said. "I played very well in that set."

A single break in the fourth set for a 4-3 lead was all the world number one and defending champion needed to push McEnroe, an unlikely hero for the Roland Garros crowd, on to the ropes.

Lendl's power and his incredible ability to hit the lines with so many of his forehands left the American no chance of fighting back.

Lendl, who won enjoys a career record of 15 wins to 13 losses against McEnroe, moves

would win. That spoiled my whole year. I just couldn't wait for the next Roland Garros. I felt as if someone had taken away my pride," he said.

On Tuesday McEnroe angrily claimed Lendl's shot to win the second set tiebreak, bringing him level at one set all, had been clearly out. After the match Lendl conceded it may have been. "It seemed to be out but there was no way of telling for sure," he said.

"I still would have had two points for the set anyway. It happens in every sport. I've gotten many good calls and I've gotten many bad calls."

Little known semifinalists

In a round that usually has so many big names, there will be a pair of no-names in one of the French Open women's semifinals.

Australia's Nicole Provis and the Soviet Union's Natalia Zvereva were playing in the junior girls tournament last year. This year they made it to the women's semifinals in the place of Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert, who had been expected to fill the semifinal berth in the lower half of the draw.

In the upper half it will be defending champion Steffi Graf against Gabriela Sabatini.

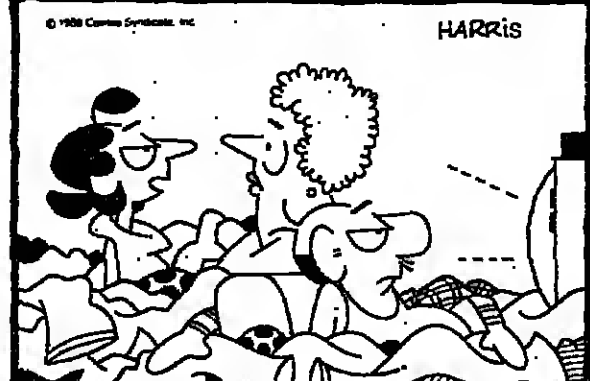
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THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"He left his socks on the floor. To get even, I left my coat on the floor. One thing led to another..."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

AFMEL
BILLE
KITSCY
SNORPE

Answer: AFMEL FOR BILLE KITSCY SNORPE

Yesterday's Jumbles: LOVER JUICY GIGOLO NOTIFY

Answer: What that short guy said while proposing — "LONG" FOR YOU

SPANISH LANGUAGE COURSES

The Spanish Cultural Centre in Amman announces the start of an intensive course in Spanish.

Registration for courses begins on June 1, 1988.

The first course opens Monday, June 13, 1988.

The intensive course lasts one month — 36 hours.

Classes: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.

For beginners classes are open between 5 and 7 p.m. and for those with some knowledge of Spanish, between 3 and 5 p.m.

For more information call the secretariat, the Spanish Cultural Centre, tel: 624049 from 9 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. and from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF © 1987 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

A THINKING PERSON'S GAME

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ AK
♥ Q6
♦ 432
♣ A8642

EAST
♠ J10974
♥ 8
♦ A1085
♣ J95

SOUTH
♠ 62
♥ AJ7532
♦ KQ
♣ K73

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass
3 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠

Bridge is a game of logic. More often than not, reasoning out the situation will lead you to the right line.

North-South bid intelligently to four hearts. Since North's initial response created a game force in his methods, he chose two no trump for his rebid even though his diamond stopper might not have stood up even on the fourth round. South showed a distributional hand with his club preference, and that gave North the opportunity to show delayed heart support.

After the opening lead of the jack of spades, declarer could see that he had an unavoidable loser in each minor suit. Therefore, his only problem was to hold his trump losers to one. If the suit split 3-2, the contract was safe, so declarer had to worry about the possibility of a 4-1 break. He looked no further than the possibility of a defender holding a singleton king of trumps. After winning the opening lead he promptly led a trump to the ace. When the king failed to appear, he continued with a trump to the queen—down one.

There was a slightly better way to tackle the trump suit. If West had four trumps headed by the king, the contract was doomed. But if East held the long trumps, declarer could succeed if West's singleton was either the 8, 9 or 10—a distinct improvement over hoping for a singleton king.

At trick two declarer should have led the queen of trumps from dummy, intending to run it had East followed low. When East covers, declarer takes the ace and, when the eight appears, he crosses back to the table to lead the remaining trump. If East produces the four, declarer runs the six. If it loses, trumps are 3-2; if West shows out, declarer has only one trump loser. And if East plays the 9 or 10, declarer wins and can force out the high heart, again holding his trump losers to one. Try it.

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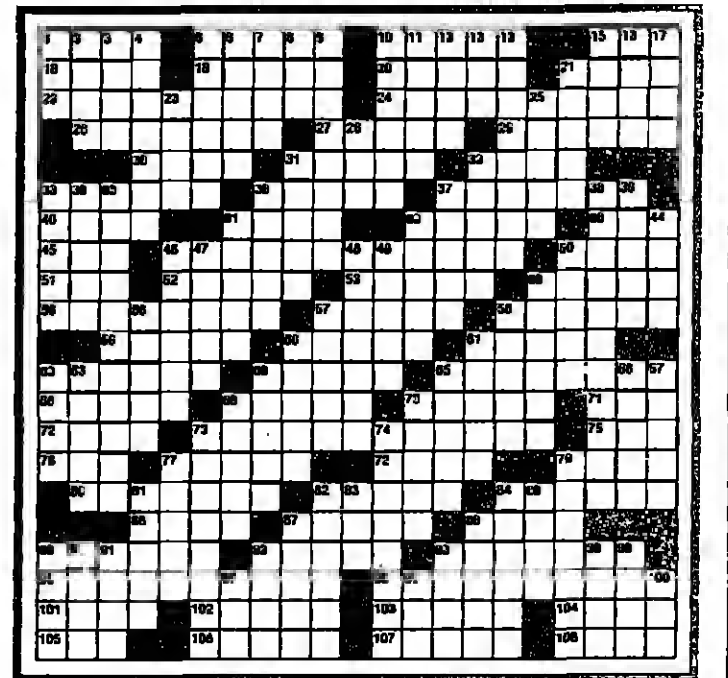
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WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

CAPITAL GAINS by Arthur S. Veredese

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26 Actor J. Carroll
27 Mr. Leader
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36 Avulsion
37 Secure
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39 apparatus
40 Stay for
41 Texas color?
42 Up and about
43 Fill a saam
44 Short jacket
45 Detroit lemon
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50 Varnish
51 Ingredient
52 Outcry
53 Bitter drug
54 Pirate flag
55 Food
56 Nick -- of films
57 Plak
58 Straightedge
59 Maka points
60 CPAs
61 Varnish
62 Ingredient
63 Outcry
64 Bitter drug
65 Pirate flag
66 Food
67 Nick -- of films
68 Plak
69 Straightedge
70 Maka points
71 CPAs
72 Synthesis
73 Equale
74 Containing tin
75 Fill up
76 Tail
77 Navy letters
78 Valuable bar
79 Exchange
80 premium
81 Disastrous
82 Auction
83 Dissonant
84 Winter visitor
85 Dissonant
86 Auction
87 Ella's jazz
88 Fruitcake
89 Pith
90 Indian city
91 Water pit
92 Cole
93 Gaudy letters
94 Devour



Last Week's Cryptograms

- When our bulky spouses knowingly nod their heads, it may be time we stopped talking.
- Ugly young girl glanced in the mirror. Her image looked back, and the glass broke.
- Colorful cagey pitchman sold much cheap stuff in ruffible bystanders at county fair.
- Long queue formed under movie marquee louting vintage film classic.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. ARCVODFM AFOGHI LEY FGVNHG NYAFIDH

1YTHMC LFC ZVHNMB OI MYTH LOVE

ABVEODFM ZIODYNL

2. ASYRAEVR DUU VEZY YKEGND ZOU MRGU

TIDY FOULEDUPS ASYKU OIPUD - KRQUQUO

3. ILE UQUOSVKEGN NUVD DLOUXUM IF AS

EY.

3. ARC HITEKCRHERLA DNIMR KITHRH DLR

ELDNSEIADJ KIPS SANSDA FTRMJIH.

4. P VALUEVERSO VAPS RD UA YOU VEOLO

AGO VPGUD UA VA.

SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

1. ARCVODFM AFOGHI LEY FGVNHG NYAFIDH

1YTHMC LFC ZVHNMB OI MYTH LOVE

ABVEODFM ZIODYNL

2. ASYRAEVR DUU VEZY YKEGND ZOU MRGU

TIDY FOULEDUPS ASYKU OIPUD - KRQUQUO

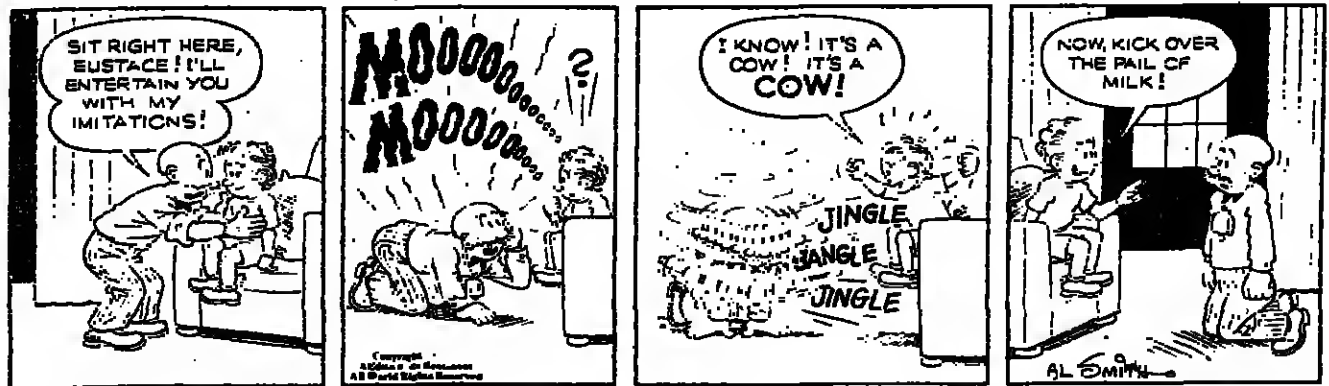
3. ILE UQUOSVKEGN NUVD DLOUXUM IF AS

EY.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Writer warns of collapse if 'perestroika' is halted

MOSCOW (R) — A leading proponent of Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms warned Wednesday the Communist Party would be swept aside by another political force if the Soviet leader's radical programme was defeated.

Playwright Alexander Gelman, among a group of intellectuals campaigning vigorously for Gorbachev's "perestroika" on the eve of a vital party conference, said the party would be destroyed if it failed to push ahead with reform.

"If the conservative forces manage to cut short our revolutionary perestroika and throw us backwards, that would mean moral death and destruction for our party, the party of Lenin," Gelman wrote in the weekly Moscow news.

If reform were defeated, he declared, "healthy forces will leave the party. And that would render everything senseless."

"The party would become a purely administrative, effectively reactionary force with no soul which would lead the country not simply to stagnation but to a totally destructive crisis."

"Our society and our people

would subsequently return to the democratic path all the same, since no other path today exists which offers hope."

"But if there were such a turn, or rather turning back of history, society would be led down that path not by our party but by some other political force which would emerge from the people in the whirlwind of crisis."

Soviet newspapers and leading reformist figures have reported that across the country the party apparatus has blocked the election of delegates committed to a radical perestroika, or restructuring, of the system.

Gelman himself — like sociologist Tatiana Zaslavskaya, political scientist Pyotr Burtsev and economist Gavril Popov — was among candidates who were not chosen by local party organisations to attend.

Many of these figures have

been appearing at news conferences in the Soviet Foreign Ministry's press centre over the past few days during the summit between Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan to report on the progress of reform.

On Tuesday, former Moscow city party chief Boris Yeltsin, in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, said he felt Gorbachev was not being firm enough in dealing with figures not totally committed to reform in the leadership.

Both Gelman and economist Yevgeny Ambarsumyan, also writing in Moscow News, said they felt the theses for the conference — a Kremlin-approved programme document on the way ahead in perestroika — did not go far enough.

Gelman said the party was slowly recognising "its own guilt, and that of its leaders... for repression and whole decades of lawlessness."

Today, he said, "the party must think uncompromisingly, because its mistakes in the past have been too serious for it to permit itself vague, half-baked evaluations."

Indians turn human rights table on Reagan

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, whose human rights agenda has annoyed his hosts at the Moscow summit, came under attack for human rights abuses at home Tuesday after he remarked on the "primitive lifestyle" of American Indians.

Dennis Jennings, of the International Indian Treaty Council, called Reagan's comments to university students a day after he told Soviet dissidents Moscow was lagging behind in respect for human rights.

The council, which represents 98 Indian nations, sent a three-person delegation to Moscow to "define for Reagan what human rights abuses are — the continued removal and isolation of native people in the interest of corporate privatisation of our lands," Jennings said.

Jennings told Reuters by telephone from his San Francisco office that Indians disputed Reagan's suggestion of oil-rich, intentionally backward Indians. "That's a hypocritical lie. There were tens of thousands of Indians who died in the face of European expansionism and other political programmes of the United States," he said.

"I think that he has really revealed himself in all his ignorance and all his arrogance for the

whole world to see," said Suzan Harjo, executive director of the National Congress of American Indians.

"He's insulted our traditional, cultural and religious ways by referring to them as primitive lifestyles," she told Reuters. "I think it's still 'Death Valley days' for him," she said, referring to a television drama of the 1950s that Reagan narrated, which often featured pioneers under Indian attack.

Harjo and Jennings were responding to Reagan's answer to a student question at Moscow University, when he suggested that many Indians got rich on oil profits and that others chose to remain second-class Americans by staying on reservations.

Describing U.S. programmes for education and welfare services for native Americans, Reagan said: "Maybe we've made a mistake."

"Maybe we should not have humoured their wanting to stay in that kind of primitive lifestyle. Maybe we should have said: 'No, come join us, be citizens along with the rest of us.'"

"Indian people have tried to meet with this president for almost eight years," Harjo added. "This president refused to meet with Indian leadership he lied about that."

Kidnappers demand Lehder for Hurtado

BOGOTA (AP) — An anonymous caller to a radio station said Tuesday that a newspaper editor had been kidnapped to pressure the government to suspend the extradition of drug traffickers to the United States.

"We are the extraditables," the man told radio Todelar in a reference to the international drug traffickers in Colombia that the United States has sought to extradite for prosecution.

The man said he and his associates kidnapped editor Alvaro Gomez Hurtado Sunday in Bogota. Gomez Hurtado, who is also a conservative party leader, was abducted by four men carrying machine guns who shot and killed his bodyguard.

The caller also said the kidnappers want to exchange Gomez Hurtado for Carlos Lehder Rivas, convicted in the United

States on drug trafficking charges.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley was asked about the possibility of an exchange of Gomez Hurtado for Lehder.

"We don't deal. We don't make concessions," she said. "We deplore this act of violence, whether it emanates from the traffickers, the violent left or right, or simply from common criminals."

The radio station received a telephone call thirty minutes after the kidnapping Sunday from a man who identified himself as one of the kidnappers and said Gomez Hurtado had been injured.

In Tuesday's call, the man's voice said Gomez Hurtado had been injured in the arm and leg, but not seriously.

Fiji orders probe into arms shipment

SUVA, Fiji (R) — Army commander Brigadier General Siiveni Rabuka said Wednesday a failed attempt to ship arms to Fiji illegally was a foreign-assisted move to destabilise the south Pacific island state.

Rabuka, who launched two coups last year to give indigenous Fijians political dominance over ethnic Indians, said in a statement he had ordered a major investigation in conjunction with other countries.

Australian customs Monday seized a container holding 16 tonnes of Soviet-made weapons bound for Fiji, including machineguns, grenades, mortar bombs, anti-tank mines, rocket

launchers, rifles and explosives. Rabuka, who is also home affairs minister, said Fiji was concerned about "what appear to be clandestine attempts to destabilise the country with assistance from overseas."

He denied allegations by members of the former Indian-dominated government of Timoci Bavadra, which he overthrew in May last year, that the arms had been ordered by the Fijian army.

The army used Western equipment and training methods and there was no military contact with the Soviet Union or North Yemen, where the shipment originated, he said.

Strike prompts state of emergency in Ecuador

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Army troops arrested dozens of protesting university students and professors Tuesday after the government declared a state of emergency to counter a planned nationwide strike, reports said.

The rector of national polytechnical school, Ruben Orellana, said armed troops entered the Quito campus of the technical university and seized several students and professors. Radio Quito said 60 people were detained.

Witnesses said troops also fired machine guns but there were no reports of injury. Official police spokesmen could not be reached for comment.

President Leon Febres Cordero signed a state of emergency order before a 24-hour strike was set to begin early Wednesday.

The strike, the seventh general strike against the Febres Cordero government, was called by the Communist-led United Front of Laborers, the nation's most powerful union.

United Front President Fausto Durand said the 200,000-member union's main demand is an increase in workers' wages.

Teachers in Ecuador's state school system went on strike 11 days ago, seeking income tax reductions and to protest higher public transportation costs.

Colombo orders shoot on sight

COLOMBO (R) — Marxist rebels set off bombs, attacked trains, and torched buses and government buildings in Sri Lanka Wednesday, police and witnesses said, prompting orders that security forces shoot trouble-makers on sight.

They said troops and police fanned out to quell the violence unleashed by the People's Liberation Front (JVP), to which one person was killed and nine injured.

The JVP, a Sinhalese extremist group opposing an Indian-Sri Lankan peace accord, aims to disrupt regional elections set for Thursday.

"The police and the security forces have been given orders to shoot at sight any person engaged in the destruction of public property such as burning buses, burning and looting shops and intimidating any others to engage in such acts of destruction," a government statement said.

An elections department official said polling to choose members for councils in western and central provinces will be held Thursday as planned under tight security despite the violence by the JVP.

Police said a JVP member carrying an AK-47 assault rifle was shot dead at Kelaniya, nine kilometres from the capital Colombo, and his companion was arrested after they ignored an order to halt and tried to run away.

A bomb set off at a government building in the central tea-growing Nuwara Eliya district injured nine people, three critically, police said.

They said the explosion took place when about 1,500 civil servants had gathered there to prepare for Thursday's polls. The JVP also set fire to at least eight government offices in the southern district Matara and two in central Matara, police said.

The JVP, made up principally of Sinhalese youth, is opposing the setting up of provincial councils, a key feature in the peace accord signed by President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi last July.

The JVP says that the accord, under which an estimated 70,000 Indian troops have been posted in Sri Lanka, is a "sell out" to India.

Chile extends state of emergency 90 days

SANTIAGO (AP) — The military government Tuesday decreed a 90-day extension of the state of emergency. Opposition leaders say the extension will prevent a fair campaign in the presidential referendum this year.

In another development, interior ministry officials issued a list Tuesday of 25 political exiles allowed to return home. It included several prominent figures in the leftist government of President Salvador Allende that was overthrown in September 1973.

More than 4,000 exiles have been authorised to return since the government began issuing periodic lists early in 1986, but only a few hundred have done so.

No date has been set for the presidential referendum, in which Chileans will be allowed only to vote "yes" or "no" on a single, military-appointed candidate for the 1989-97 term.

General Augusto Pinochet, who is 72 and has been president since the 1973 military coup, is considered the most likely candidate.

If voters reject the government's choice, a competitive election is to occur a year later, with

Pinochet remaining in office until then.

The state of emergency would have expired Tuesday.

"By renewing the state of emergency, the government is casting doubt on the fairness of its own plebiscite," said Patricia Aylwin, president of the Centrist Christian Democratic Party, the largest opposition group.

Enrique Silva, president of the Centrist Radical Party, said: "Under the state of emergency, the most basic guarantees for a clean electoral process cannot exist."

Government officials have hinted the election might be held Sept. 11, which means the emergency would cover at least part of the campaign.

Officials claim the emergency is necessary to deal with what the government calls a growing terrorist threat from radical leftists.

Under the emergency, which was imposed when the military seized power and has been enforced intermittently since, the government can restrict freedom of the press and ban public gatherings.

200 believed dead in Jakarta ferry tragedy

JAKARTA (R) — At least 200 people are feared to have drowned when a overloaded ferry sank in the Java Sea off the Indonesian coast, the Java Post reported Wednesday from Surabaya, capital of east Java.

It said 18 people had been rescued and a team of divers recovered six bodies from the seabed Tuesday.

Rescue workers were still looking for more survivors while police were trying to pull up the wreck of the Bintang Madura cargo ship which sank Saturday night.

Police and rescue officials were either unavailable or declined to comment about the incident.

The ship was on its way to the western island of Sumatra. The paper quoted local residents as saying more than 200 passengers were aboard, with a cargo of 330 cows and 100 tonnes of salt.

It sank 150 metres from Bangkalan Port on the island of Madura, 50 kilometres north of Indonesia's second largest city

Surabaya, the daily said.

"Six bodies have been recovered, three of them are children, of the 18 survivors, 15 are the ship's crew, including its captain," a police official told the daily.

It quoted a port official as saying that the ship sank after it lost balance due to cargo overload.

"More than 200 tickets were sold on that day," the official said. He did not mention the capacity of the 300 deadweight tonne ferry.

Bailu Usman, the captain of the ship, denied it was overloaded and was quoted as telling police there were only 80 passengers on board the ferry when it sank.

Thousands of locals gathered at the Bangkalan port after reports that police would pull up the wreck of the ship, the Java Post said.

Indonesia, the largest country in South-East Asia, has more than 13,000 islands. Ships and boats are the commonest means of transport for inter-island journeys.

Mujahedeen increase rocket attacks amid coup rumours

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Anti-Communist fighters this week lobbed more rockets into the Afghan capital than any other week this year as they concentrate west and south of the city, Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, also reported rumours of an imminent military coup there and that the Soviets have begun supplying the Afghan army with more sophisticated gear than they have had before.

Diplomats, citing dispatches from Kabul, said 14 rockets slammed mainly into western and southern Kabul the past week, fuelling fears that Mujahedeen are strengthening and drawing nearer.

Official Afghan television

showed pictures of a new long-range rocket captured south of the city. It corroborated widespread reports that the insurgents have starting using the weapons, which have a range of about 20 kilometres and are believed supplied by the United States.

Washington, while acknowledging it supplies the Mujahedeen, rarely discloses details of arms shipments.

Diplomatic sources said observers in Kabul have noted a number of new items entering the Kabul government's military inventories.

They said Soviet-built AN-12 transports, jets comparable to the U.S. Turbo-prop C-130 Hercules, have been provided to the Afghans. Sources said the first such sighting was at Kabul airport

May 23. Afghan government officials and East European diplomats are joining other observers in broad speculation about a possible military coup when President Najibullah leaves the country for 10 days from June 4, the sources said.

They said a planned trip to Czechoslovakia reportedly was cancelled by the Soviets because they feared Najibullah's prolonged absence could lead to political upheaval in his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Speculation focusses on the Khalq faction which dominates the police and military. Najibullah's Parcham wing also is split in two: His supporters and those of former leader Bahrak Karmal.

Bush 'relishes' role of underdog in quest for the presidency

WASHINGTON (R) — While President Reagan commands the world stage at the Moscow summit, Vice President George Bush is closeted thousands of miles away, a surprising underdog in his bid for the presidency.

At a time a prosperous economy should be propelling him to the White House, Bush trails likely general election rival Democrat Michael Dukakis by at least 10 percentage points in several recent polls.

With the United States enjoying both peace and prosperity, conventional wisdom suggests that the candidate of the incumbent party should be favoured in the November election.

But Bush, who has wrapped up the Republican presidential nomination, has been hurt by a series of problems surrounding the White House including the failure of U.S. efforts to oust Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega and the continued questioning of Attorney General Edwin Meese's ethical conduct.

"What's happening is a total accumulation of unfavourable developments," says political scientist George Reedy, former press secretary to President Lyndon Johnson.

Polls also show that a third or more of the public holds an unfavourable opinion of the vice president and a large number of voters doubt his leadership abilities.

Just five months ago, Bush was warmed by the glow of Reagan's Washington summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The vice president was highly visible at almost all the summit events and shared the spotlight when Gorbachev stopped the limousine bearing the two men to plunge into a lunchtime crowd in Washington and shake hands with American voters.

At the time, Bush appeared likely to defeat any potential Democratic nominee.

Political strategists in both parties expected the vice president to benefit from the U.S.-Soviet rea-



George Bush

Bush professes to relish the underdog role, saying it will give him a chance to attack Dukakis.

"I like fighting back. He is the favourite," Bush told reporters.

In fact, Bush has already set his sights on Dukakis, belittling the governor's claim to have produced a "Massachusetts miracle" of economic growth in his home state.

"Massachusetts is the 12th largest state and it receives the fifth largest share of defence," Bush told reporters while campaigning in New Jersey. "There is no question Massachusetts has benefited from the defence buildup."

And in a speech at the U.S. military academy, Bush painted Dukakis as a naive liberal, who would unwittingly weaken America's security by cutting defence spending.

Bush says his rival's standing in the polls has been inflated by favourable publicity from a string of easy primary victories over his lone Democratic nomination rival, civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

"It's quite different in attracting all that important first 60 seconds in the news," Bush said.

Bush also says Dukakis is temporarily benefiting from Americans' unfamiliarity with what he calls the Massachusetts governor's ultra-liberal views.

"When a poll says that two thirds of the people think Dukakis is more conservative than I am — I say, hey, what's going on out there," Bush told reporters recently. "Nobody will ever allege that in November."

Many political experts agree the election outcome is likely to be determined by how the public views Dukakis.

Bush is well known and his image will be hard to change but nearly 60 per cent of Dukakis backers say their choice is motivated by anti-Bush feelings, not loyalty to Dukakis.

Political experts say the softness of the Dukakis support raises the possibility of wide swings in public sentiment.

COLUMN

Gorbachev gives Reagan the Kremlin

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev has handed the Kremlin over to Ronald Reagan — a exact bronze replica one 1,000th the size of the ancient fortress overlooking Red Square. In exchange the U.S. president gave Gorbachev a bronze cast of a cowboy on a horse rearing before a rattlesnake crossing its path. The exchange of gifts was made at a summit dinner in the Kremlin. Nancy Reagan gave Raisa Gorbachev a cotton quilt showing four rows of shaped baskets filled with red flowers. In return Gorbachev gave her a bone porcelain coffee set. The Gorbachevs gave the White House a vase called "Peace to the Earth."

Man uses bank money to woo future wife

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) — A man who used \$44,000 mistakenly credited to his bank account to woo his future wife has pleaded guilty to larceny. Ali Kassar Barlas, a native of Pakistan, entered the plea this week in superior court. Under a plea bargain, prosecutors recommended he be placed on probation and be ordered to repay the money. Sentencing was set for July 7. Barlas was an east Hartford car salesman two years ago when he deposited a \$374 check into his checking account. Connecticut National Bank mistakenly credited him for a deposit of \$44,374, officials said. Barlas took the money and went back to Pakistan, where he paid his girlfriend's parents \$10,000 and spent another 10,000 entertaining the woman's family, authorities said. He returned with his girlfriend and was arrested in July. He is scheduled to marry the woman next week.

Bug misses record

RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA (AP) — An elderly man says his Volkswagen auto had lapped nearly 1.6 million kilometres before it was squashed like a bug under an overturned beer truck. The 1966 Volkswagen had about 1.5 million kilometres on its odometer before the accident Monday, owner Forrest Varing said. "Baby was about to make (1.6 million kilometres) but she flattened out in the stretch," Varing, 67, said. He suffered only minor cuts in the accident and the truck driver was unhurt. Both vehicles were travelling on a curved connecting ramp when the truck, carrying a load of beer, overturned, crushing the Volkswagen. Varing admitted not all the kilometres registered on the car's odometer were driving miles, saying it was often towed behind other cars during travels for his auto delivery business.

Soldiers can wear earrings

HAMMERFEST, Norway (R) — A Norwegian soldier has won the right to wear earrings on parade. Court officials said Tuesday that two women judges in this northern Norwegian town had ruled that it was sexual discrimination to order him take them off. The third judge — a man — disagreed. The unnamed soldier appealed to a civil court after the army fined him last year for refusing to remove an earring. Military regulations say that only serving women may wear earrings.

Predictions for the year 2038

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Life spans up to 200 and plentiful food, but a growing gap between rich and poor — those are among the predictions for the year 2038 from some prominent people. Those forecasts — offered by authors, scientists, sports figures and entertainers — were sealed this week in a time capsule to be opened in a half-century. The event was part of the 4th annual L. Ron Hubbard Writers of the Future awards ceremony. Hubbard, a science fiction writer and the Church of Scientology founder, died in 1986. Costa Rican president Oscar Arias, the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize winner, said the gap between rich and poor will increase over the next 50 years and be reflected in such things as the way food is distributed. Thomas R. McDough of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena predicted humans can look forward to long lives. "The average lifespan will be 200 years, and some people alive in 2038 will live for millions of years," he said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Ailing Duarte flies to U.S. hospital

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte flew to the United States Tuesday for urgent treatment for what he described as a bleeding ulcer. Amid unconfirmed press reports that he is suffering from stomach cancer, Duarte boarded a U.S. airtour plane with his wife and son bound for Washington D.C.'s Walter Reed hospital. Duarte said at an airport sendoff attended by cabinet members, legislators and diplomats that he was suffering from a bleeding ulcer seven centimetres long. "The doctors have said that they are reserving their diagnosis until the studies are conducted," he said.

EEC launches AIDS information system

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Economic Community (EEC) nations said Tuesday they will step up efforts to coordinate their fight against AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome. In a statement after a meeting in Brussels, the EEC health ministers said they aimed to devise a joint AIDS strategy, help EEC states in their AIDS campaigns and avoid "contradictory national policies with regard to infected persons from non-EEC countries." They formed an EEC panel that will collect data about the spread of AIDS in the EEC and national efforts to combat it. It must also make recommendations on how to prevent discrimination of AIDS sufferers. The ministers released the results of study showing the number of diagnosed AIDS cases in the EEC, which has a population of 320 million, now totals 11,189. This is expected to top 56,000 by late 1989. The study estimated between 300,000 and 800,000 people in the EEC are believed to be infected with the AIDS virus.

Venezuela places border on alert

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela has placed on alert its military forces posted along its border with Colombia, officials said Tuesday, according to the state news agency Vepres. Governor Omar Barboza of Zulia state, which borders Colombia, said the alert is to guard against a spillover of violence that has followed Sunday's kidnapping in Bogota of an influential Colombian politician and to prevent Colombians from fleeing into Venezuelan territory. However, Defence Minister Elpidoro Gomez Guerrero said the border troops "are normally on alert 24 hours a day" because of kidnappings, shootouts and other violent border incidents which Venezuela regularly attributes to Colombian guerrillas and narcotics traffickers. "Our armed forces along the frontier are on the alert for any unusual circumstance, although nothing has happened until now," Barboza said. "The kidnapping of the former presidential candidate (Alvaro Gomez Hurtado) introduces a new element of worry for Colombia's political stability," he said.

W. German mine blast traps 40

BORKEN, West Germany (AP) — An explosion ripped through a coal mine in central West Germany Wednesday, trapping more than 40 miners, West German television reported. "It's still not known whether there were any deaths," ZDF television network added. ZDF said that seven miners were rescued, but their conditions were not immediately known, adding that more than 40 were trapped inside. The explosion occurred in the town of Borken, about 120 kilometres northeast of Frankfurt.